

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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KORNIYENKO HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES

LD252030 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1432 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

["Press Conference at the USSR Foreign Ministry"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--A press conference was held today for Soviet and foreign journalists in connection with the end of the discussion of disarmament questions at the 23d UN General Assembly session and the start of the Geneva Disarmament Committee's work.

The press conference was held by Georgiy Korniyenko, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs.

In 1978, he said, the Soviet Union continued to do everything it could to insure a decisive breakthrough in the cause of halting the armaments race and going on to measures of real disarmament.

Its efforts were directed toward attaining this aim also within the framework of the United Nations. For consideration by the UN General Assembly special session on disarmament last summer the Soviet Union submitted developed comprehensive proposals on practical ways of ending the arms race.

In these proposals particular attention was paid to the issues of ending the further qualitative and quantitative growth in military armaments of states, which have at their disposal major military potential, and to creating conditions which would help in their eventual reduction. We can state with satisfaction that many of the ideas put forward by the Soviet Union have become part of the final document adopted at the special session of the UN General Assembly.

At the recently concluded 33d session of the UN General Assembly the Soviet Union attempted to secure further progress in the effort to put into practice its earlier ideas and advocated their development and elaboration in a number of practical proposals.

Inasmuch as the chief danger to peace has its source in the intensifying nuclear arms race, our efforts were in fact centered on steps aimed at ending the manufacture of nuclear weapons in all their forms and varieties, at the gradual reduction of their stocks and later their complete liquidation. In other words, we want to take nuclear weapons out of states' arsenals.

But there is no room here for illusions--this problem is extraordinarily complex, even from the purely technical viewpoint. It is important, however, to put the issue on practical lines. Guided by this very idea, the Soviet Union put forward proposals concerning the start of talks on the above question with the participation of all nuclear powers as well as a certain number of nonnuclear states. And we note with satisfaction that the General Assembly has supported these proposals and called on all states possessing nuclear weapons to begin consultations to discuss the earliest possible start of talks on ending the nuclear arms race and on gradually reducing stocks of nuclear weapons, aimed at completely destroying them. In our view a contribution toward organizing such talks can also be made by the Disarmament Committee, the extended session of which started in Geneva yesterday.

While we put forward a completely radical solution--banning nuclear arms forever and removing them from states' arsenals, and banning at the same time the use of force--we do not rule out, but on the contrary, have ourselves put forward separate partial measures leading in this direction.

One such measure, which the Soviet Union proposed for adoption at the United Nations, could be the conclusion of an international convention banning the use of nuclear weapons against those states which have declined to produce and acquire nuclear weapons, and which do not have them on their territory. Putting this Soviet proposal into practice would transform into an international norm the obligation which the Soviet Union undertook earlier, but which has so far been declined by other nuclear states.

The above proposal, which meets the desires of nonnuclear states for stronger guarantees of their security, has received at the 33d UN General Assembly so much support that only two countries opted to vote against it: China and Albania, whereas 137 states voted for it. It is now the turn of the Disarmament Committee to pronounce on this measure; the committee should embark on businesslike negotiations in preparation for drafting an appropriate convention. A Soviet draft of such a convention is already under the committee's consideration.

Another Soviet proposal--dealing with the nondeployment of nuclear weapons on the territories of states where there are none at present--has also received broad support (more than 100 votes) at the General Assembly. Only, and this is very significant, the NATO countries, as well as Japan, Australia and New Zealand, which are in alliance with the United States, voted against the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on this issue.

The negative attitude adopted by NATO countries on this issue is making it impossible for the time being to put into a treaty-based, binding form the resolution adopted by the General Assembly calling for nondeployment of nuclear weapons on the territory of states where there are none at present. The Soviet Union has stated its readiness to assume a corresponding obligation. It is now up to the other nuclear powers.

The General Assembly also called for the speedy completion of the drafting of an agreement on a complete and universal nuclear arms test ban. The drafting of this document, Georgiy Korniyenko pointed out, has been inordinately delayed because of the attitude of our Western partners in the talks.

The General Assembly once again adopted a resolution calling upon the Disarmament Committee to actively continue talks with the aim of formulating the text of an agreement to ban the creation of new types and systems of mass destruction weapons. The need to place a barrier in the path of creating increasingly new types of such weapons was, as is known, put forward at the initiative of the Soviet Union some years ago.

Unfortunately, however, talks on this issue are proceeding extremely slowly. Only the preparation of a separate agreement on the ban of one new type of mass destruction weapon--radiological--has more or less advanced. This is good, but it is not sufficient. One would like to hope that at the present session of the Disarmament Committee greater progress will be achieved than has been to date. It is also time to set in motion the draft convention on banning the production, stockpiling, deployment and application of the neutron weapon, which has been lying in the Disarmament Committee's portfolio for a long time now.

Other important issues in the sphere of limiting armaments and disarmament, on which the appropriate resolutions of the General Assembly 33d session were adopted, are in turn waiting to be resolved. These include a ban on and liquidation of chemical weapons, a reduction of armed forces and conventional arms, and a reduction in military budgets.

In this connection I would like to stress that for its part the Soviet Union, while according primary importance to issues of limitation and, in the long term, liquidation of nuclear weapons, does not underestimate the importance of a limitation on so-called conventional, nonnuclear weapons, especially since today many of them possess great destructive force. Among the number of proposals put forward by the Soviet Union in the United Nations are correspondingly those touching upon even essentially conventional arms. It is sufficient to recall as an example our proposal concerning the refusal by the permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as those countries linked with them by military agreements, to increase their armies and their stocks of conventional weapons.

Altogether the 33d session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted over 40 resolutions on issues relating to the cessation of the arms race and disarmament. On the whole these are good and correct decisions. However, the most important thing is to achieve their implementation in practice, and the quicker the better. It would be dangerous folly to reckon that for this there is an unlimited amount of time available.

As Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, recently stressed in his message to the Disarmament Committee, for states, peoples and state officials who are responsible for the life and welfare of their countries, the time has come finally to realize the ultimate significance of the alternatives facing mankind today. If the arms race were halted and reversed, then the peaceful initiatives could at last be irreversibly asserted in interstate relations, or else the matter will come to a new and most dangerous brinkmanship with all its negative consequences for detente, normalization of interstate relations, and the solving of world economic problems. There can be only one choice here: Efforts aimed at attaining a decisive breakthrough in the struggle to halt the arms race should be increased twofold, threefold, tenfold.

The determination of the Soviet Union and its allies to act in just such a manner was further confirmed in the declaration of the Warsaw Treaty states, adopted at the Political Consultative Committee Conference in Moscow in November of last year. This sets out a wide program of actions aimed at halting the arms race, strengthening peace, developing the process of detente and broadening international cooperation.

Georgiy Korniyenko then went on to answer correspondents' questions.

Press Conference Continues

ID252340 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1623 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Conference (Replies to Questions)"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--At a press conference held here today in connection with the completion of the discussion of disarmament issues at the UN General Assembly 33d session and the start of the Geneva Disarmament Committee's work, Georgiy Korniyenko, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, replied to correspondents' questions.

[Question] What is the present state of affairs at the Vienna talks, and can progress be expected there?

[Answer] The latest round of talks in Vienna will begin in the next few days. But if the Western participants continue adhering to the same unconstructive position that they occupied in previous rounds, then it must be said outright that progress there should not be expected.

Everything rests on the stubborn unwillingness of the Western countries to abide by the principle with regard to the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe which was agreed at the very start of the Vienna talks in 1973--that is, the principle of not causing damage to the security of any of the sides. In other words, any reduction of the troops and armaments of the two sides, while lowering their level, should not, at the same time, change the correlation of forces which has been established between the sides.

It is precisely this principle to which the socialist countries have invariably adhered through all the years of the Vienna talks. Such a position on their part is all the more justified and just, in that the correlation of forces which had established itself in Europe before the start of these talks was characterized by approximate equality. This fact was also admitted by the leaders of the Western countries, including the United States.

Thus, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Rush, speaking in the Senate on 25 July 1973, said: "In central Europe NATO has approximately the same number of armed forces as the Warsaw Pact."

Throughout 1974-75 former U.S. Defense Secretary Schlesinger also spoke on more than one occasion in Congress of "approximate balance" and of "relatively stable balance" of the armed forces of NATO and the Warsaw Pact in central Europe.

An equally clear statement on this matter was made by U.S. President Ford in a speech in Helsinki on 1 August 1975. "Military stability in Europe," he said, "has kept the peace. The time has now come to substantially reduce the high levels of armed forces on both sides while maintaining that stability."

Finally, research published in the United States in November 1976 by a group of eminent American figures, among them present Secretary of State Vance, also produced the conclusion that "at the present time there exists approximate military parity in central Europe."

But the Soviet Union has not since that time increased its armed forces in this area by a single soldier or a single tank. Nobody can dispute this fact. This is while the number of U.S. troops in Europe, according to figures published in the United States, increased in 1977 by 17,900 men, and in 1978 by 16,900 men.

And after all of this they still go on in the West about "disproportions" allegedly favoring the Warsaw Pact countries, and on this pretext they push for asymmetrical reductions in favor of the NATO countries. A strange line and, frankly, not a hopeful one.

[Question] What could you say about the prospects of FRC participation in the work of the Disarmament Committee?

[Answer] The Soviet Union has always proceeded from the desirability of FRC participation along with that of other states in a discussion and solution of disarmament issues. What is more, a solution of some of these issues is completely impossible without the participation of all nuclear powers. This applies above all to the questions of nuclear disarmament, but not only to them.

However, the present Chinese leadership, as is well known, has not only declined to take part in a solution of the problem of disarmament, but on the contrary has opposed this in every way. The Chinese seat at the Disarmament Committee is vacant at the present time too. True, the Chinese side has recently made statements which do not exclude the possibility of PRC participation subsequently in the work of the committee. But after all, the important thing here is not whether or not the Chinese representatives will take part in the work of the committee; the essence of the matter is what role they will perform in this--constructive or obstructionist. In this respect, frankly speaking, there are not yet grounds for optimism.

[Question] What is the specific explanation for the delay in working out an agreement on general and total prohibition of nuclear tests?

[Answer] There are not very many unagreed matters remaining, but those remaining are most important. Let me dwell on the main ones. In itself the concept of a G E N E R A L prohibition of nuclear tests envisages that all nuclear powers should take part in such an agreement. However, our Western partners in the talks--the United States and Britain--have been insisting that an agreement enter into force even if China and France for a certain time do not accede to it. In the interests of this matter we agreed to such an idea, proposing that this period of time be limited to 3 years. We were told: No, that is too little, let us set a 5-year time period. Well now, we agreed to that too. But before a few weeks had passed the United States changed its mind and started to insist that an agreement in any event operate for not more than 3 years, irrespective of whether China and France accede to it and then, it was said, let us see. To continue, in itself, the concept of T O T A L cessation of nuclear tests envisages that there should be no exceptions to this principle. But the U.S. stand on this cardinal matter, too, remains not completely clear. On the one hand, after a lengthy delay it agreed in principle with the formula on banning all nuclear tests. On the other hand, it immediately made reservations that this ban should not be extended to "low-power nuclear blasting experiments."

The sense of all these zigzags becomes absolutely clear if one considers statements by representatives of the Pentagon and certain other U.S. departments which are openly expressing opposition to U.S. cessation of all nuclear weapon tests.

You judge then who is to blame for the delay in completing work on this agreement.

[Question] Can one count on real results from the talks on limiting the sale and supply of conventional armaments?

[Answer] These talks are at present essentially at an initial stage. Their success will depend above all on whether success is achieved in agreeing upon the political and legal criteria for the permissibility or impermissibility of the sale and supply of armaments. After all, it is one thing to grant weapons to the victim of aggression and quite another to supply the aggressor with weapons, or, for example, to place weapons in the hand of those who openly say that war is a totally "normal" phenomenon and more or less a "state of peace." Much will depend on whether the United States will give up a one-sided, selective approach of discussing these issues with regard to some regions of interest to them and of attempting to avoid discussing other regions. In addition, questions of limiting the sale and supply of conventional armaments in the final analysis cannot be decided by talks between only two countries--the USSR and the United States--since there exist quite a few other major arms suppliers.

[Question] What has happened to the talks on issues of limiting military activity in the Indian Ocean area? There has been no news of them for a long time now.

[Answer] For a year the American side has been declining to resume these talks which it broke off unilaterally. Various pretexts are put forward for this, but to all intents and purposes, by all accounts, there is only one reason: the Pentagon's unwillingness to be confined over the scale of its activity in the Indian Ocean. One does not need to go far for examples of the precise purposes for which the United States intends to use this freedom from restraint. It is enough to view the movements of U.S. naval forces in the Indian Ocean and adjacent to it in connection with the latest events in Iran.

[Question] At the initiative of the Polish People's Republic, the 23d session of the UN General Assembly adopted a declaration "On Bringing Peoples Up in the Spirit of Peace." All states with the exception of the United States and Israel voted for it. Of what significance is this declaration, in your opinion, in connection with the struggle for disarmament?

[Answer] The adoption of this declaration is definitely of great political significance. This declaration deals with efforts directed at halting the armaments race, disarmament and a consolidation of peace. Therein lies its value, which is emphasized by the fact that it was supported by virtually all members of the United Nations.

[Question] According to press reports, the United States intends to transfer its electronic military equipment from Iran to other countries, in particular to Turkey, Greece and Cyprus. How do you appraise such actions by the United States in light of the struggle for disarmament and the strengthening of detente in the Mediterranean area?

[Answer] In the most negative fashion.

'FIERCE STRUGGLE' OVER SALT FORESEEN IN SENATE

LD251606 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1533 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Washington, 25 January--U.S. Secretary of State C. Vance made a statement about progress in the Soviet-American talks on limiting strategic offensive weapons at a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In a brief conversation with journalists after this session C. Vance expressed the hope that the United States and the Soviet Union will be able to reach agreement on SALT "in the near future." To quote the secretary of state, he assured the members of the commission that any SALT agreement would be presented to Congress as a treaty requiring a two-thirds majority of the senators' votes for ratification.

The SALT question, according to press reports, was also discussed at the meeting held in the past few days between President J. Carter and a number of leading senators, including members of a Senate delegation which recently visited the Soviet Union. Senator A. Ribicoff, who headed the delegation, told correspondents after his meeting with J. Carter that in his view the SALT agreement must be approved. He said he is opposed to linking the ratification of this agreement with matters having nothing at all to do with it. Senator J. Javits expressed the conviction that if the Foreign Relations Committee gave the SALT agreement a positive appraisal it "would get the necessary number of votes in the Senate after a difficult struggle."

At the same time, as it appears from press reports, a complicated situation has now come about in the U.S. Senate, characterized by certain circles' attempts to torpedo the Soviet-American agreement even before it is concluded. The number of fervent opponents of arms limitation include such "hawks" as Senators H. Jackson, S. Nunn, R. Schweiker and others. The latter, speaking to journalists yesterday, asserted that "tying" the strategic offensive arms limitation agreement to other questions of the Soviet Union's foreign and internal policy is, as he said, "a key problem."

The increased activity in the United States of the placemen of the military-industrial complex heralds, in the opinion of the press, a fierce struggle over ratification of a SALT agreement.

PROCEEDINGS AT GENEVA DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE REPORTED

LD252005 Moscow TASS in English 1946 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Geneva, January 25, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Lopatin reports: At the Disarmament Committee's session which opened here, a message of welcome addressed to its participants by the General Secretary of the CPSU CC, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev, has been circulated as an official document. The delegates in the Geneva Palace of Nations heard with attention and gratitude the good wishes for success in achieving practical results, which all the peoples of the world are expecting and with which people everywhere on earth associate their hopes for a stronger and more stable peace.

The committee continues the general discussion. Representatives of states indicate the importance of the tasks facing the committee and the need to end the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race.

Nuclear disarmament was described as an imperative need by the Sri Lanka foreign minister, A.K. Sahul Hameed, whose country attends the committee for the first time. We must reject the false thesis of those who assert that nuclear deterrents is a means of preserving peace, he said. The Sri Lanka delegate stressed the interest of non-aligned states when achieving concrete results on the road of disarmament in strengthening the security of the non-nuclear countries.

The foreign minister of France Jean Francois-Poncet pointed to the links between disarmament and international detente. Without deepening detente, he said, there will be no disarmament. He specially noted the need for progress on the road opened at Helsinki.

An agreement on the complete banning of nuclear weapons tests would be of tremendous importance for preventing their further proliferation, states Swedish Foreign Minister Hans Blix. Sweden, he said, comes out firmly against the neutron weapon, which contradicts humane principles, and risks to lower the threshold of nuclear danger.

The crucial objective for the Disarmament Committee is the complete banning of all nuclear tests, said the head of the Mexican delegation Alfonso Garcia Robles. The problem of nuclear disarmament is extremely urgent.

According to the British minister of state for the affairs of the Commonwealth, Lord Goronwy Roberts, substantial progress was achieved at the tripartite talks between the USSR, USA and Great Britain, with majority of the important problems being agreed on principle, concerning an agreement of the complete cessation of nuclear tests in every sphere.

U.S. MILITARY SPENDING, EFFECT ON SOCIAL PROGRAMS EXAMINED

ID251401 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 4 Signed To Press 15 Jan 79 p 20 LD

[V. Polyakov article: "Under the Pressure of the Military-Industrial Complex"]

[Text] Yet another year of the 20th century has receded into history. One of its important distinguishing features was the peoples' exceptionally broad and powerful struggle for peace, detente and the easing of international tensions. It was a year of peaceful initiatives from the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries which gained the support of progressive people throughout the world. Soviet proposals on a world disarmament conference, on banning the creation of new types and systems of mass destruction weapons, on mutual reduction of military budgets, on guaranteeing the security of non-nuclear countries and other documents submitted by socialist states received the high appraisal of the UN General Assembly and the world public.

An Effective and Practical Path

Each specific step is important in the struggle to end the arms race. This is the path that Warsaw Pact countries follow, submitting to the NATO bloc states for discussion proposals whose mutual adoption would be a valuable contribution to strengthening the cause of peace. The reduction of military budgets in particular ranks among these proposals. The declaration adopted by the Warsaw Pact member states on 23 November 1978 stated: "One of the most effective and practical paths toward ending the arms race is the reduction of military budgets, primarily of states with great economic and military potential. The socialist countries are prepared to come to an agreement on the resolution of this great task, on the reduction of military budgets either by equal percentages, or in absolute terms on a one to one basis. Their proposals in this respect are being examined by the United Nations, including the proposal to freeze military budgets at the current level and to start immediate reductions."

The proposals are exhaustively clear and specific. The Soviet Union, a faithful and consistent fighter for peace, has not raised its defense budget for several years. Since 1975, the USSR Supreme Soviet has provided approximately R17 billion for defense needs. Most unfortunately, our interlocutors, and primarily the United States, not only did not support the proposals on the mutual reduction of military budgets, but practically initiated a new round of increases by making a decision to increase appropriations for military purposes above already inflated military budgets at the Washington session of the NATO Council in May 1978.

What Is It All About Then?

Bourgeois politicians, especially in their election campaigns, give the electorate generous promises, including the reduction of military spending. Thus, during the election campaign in 1976, the current U.S. President stated that once in the White House, he would reduce the military budget by between \$5-7 billion and would direct those funds into several social programs. However, the beating of the election drums had barely abated before the U.S. administration presented a military budget several billion dollars higher than the previous one. The present President's predecessors acted in a similar way. The military-industrial complex, which dictates the real policy in the arms sphere, gained control. Military spending in the United States totaled \$76 billion in 1970 and \$130 billion in 1978. In the draft budget for fiscal year 1980 the Pentagon has demanded \$137.2 billion.

As usual, bourgeois propaganda explains the growth in the military budget by the alleged Soviet threat. They cannot manage to do this without direct falsification. Thus, for example, the final communique of the NATO Defense Planning Committee alleged that the Soviet Union raises its military budget by 4.5 percent annually.

How do things stand in reality? In a reference book published recently by the USSR Central Statistical Administration, defense spending is cited over a number of years. It totals R17.2-17.4 billion.

It is not difficult to calculate the percentage of the state budget spent by the USSR on defense. A recent Supreme Soviet session confirmed the 1979 state budget for the sum of R269 billion. The USSR state budget set defense requirements at the sum of R17.2 billion. Therefore, defense requirements constitute 6 percent. At the same time in the last fiscal year the United States allocated almost 30 percent of total budget appropriations for military needs.

The claim that the United States is lagging behind in the military sphere is refuted by the U.S. administration itself, which has repeatedly made statements about the approximate parity between Soviet and U.S. arms.

Why then are the military budgets of the United States and its NATO partners growing? As we have seen, in the United States it has increased from \$45 billion to \$130 billion since 1960. In the FRG, the 1970 military budget was DM19.4 billion, while in 1977 it was DM32 billion. The same may be said of other NATO countries. A decisive role in determining U.S. policy in the military sphere is played by the military-industrial complex, that is, the major industrial corporations connected with the Pentagon which receive the majority of military orders. Moreover, the corporations receive giant profits from arms exports, which are sold for many billions of dollars. As the shah stated recently in an interview with American journalists, over the past couple of years the United States has sold Iran alone weapons worth \$20 billion.

The New York TIMES recently wrote: "If the Carter administration attempts to cut down on the production and sale of arms, the political pressure from American producers will force him to review this policy". Comment, as they say, is superfluous.

FRG industrial firms are demanding the expansion of military orders. West Germany's WIRTSCHAFTSWOCHEN recently published a curious interview with Georg (Bakli), a member of the board of the Diehl KG concern (production of ammunition, detonators and tank equipment:

[Question] Mr (Bakli), you fear a shortage of orders for the Western German military industry. But surely now a new phase is unfolding in the arming of the Bundeswehr. Is there really not enough?

[Answer] Despite rearmament, we observe that production of a number of systems is coming to an end and there are not enough new orders.

[Question] You demand a uniform loading to capacity. Insofar as the Bundeswehr alone cannot insure this, you want the government to facilitate arms exports. Do you not see a certain danger in this?

[Answer] We must call things by their proper names. Loading to capacity means at the same time a freer interpretation of the concept "regional tensions" in order to be able to increase exports a little.

The arms manufacturers are not supported solely by the war departments of their own countries. The Beijing [Peking] hegemonists coax corporation executives. They are prepared to buy missiles and vertical takeoff jets, tanks and guns. [paragraph continues]

They need weapons to commit provocations against the heroic Vietnamese people, to suppress the Kampuchean people's liberation struggle, to help Pinochet's fascist regime, to support the counterrevolutionary elements in Angola and Ethiopia, in a word, the weapons executives have found people who will pay great attention to them.

At the Working People's Expense

At whose expense are resources for the constant increases in the military budget procured? Primarily at the expense of the working people. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget and its director James McIntyre have spread around, as they say, those items which have been cut back in the budget for the 1980 financial year. To hold the budget deficit within the planned \$30 billion figure and to secure an increase in military appropriations, the U.S. administration has been cutting back on many social programs.

As the New York TIMES reports, funds allocated for existing health, education, city development aid and environmental conservation programs are being cut by \$15 billion.

Although the unemployment level in the United States is 6 percent, administrative spokesmen envision a \$1.5 billion cutback in federal appropriations for the creation of new jobs in the state sector. In 1979, the number of newly created jobs will fall by almost 200,000 in comparison with 1978.

Moreover, considerable cuts are planned in appropriations for student loans, aid to primary and secondary education, social security, sickness benefit programs and programs for improving social services.

The increase in the military budget comes at a time of an economic recession and fierce inflation. In the third quarter of 1978 the real growth in the gross national product was just less than half the rate in the second quarter. The rate of inflation over the same period, according to Commerce Department statistics, was 7.1 percent. At the same time, monopoly profits increased in the third quarter by almost 2 percent and reached \$208.6 billion.

One of the causes of inflation and the fall in the dollar exchange rate, as the DAILY WORLD writes, is the exorbitant military expenditure. The United States spends a large part of its appropriations for scientific research in the military sphere. It maintains over 2,000 military bases abroad, which leads to a constant outflow of dollars. The United States spends billions of dollars on military aid to its allies and puppets--Israel, South Korea, Nicaragua and others.

Explaining the current U.S. administration's economic policy, Comrade Gus Hall, U.S. Communist Party general secretary, wrote recently:

"Like the Nixon administration and the four administrations before it, the Carter administration is pursuing a class policy. It protects monopoly capital and its economic, political and military interests. In the face of difficult problems it maneuvers in every way possible, trying to shift expenditures in an attempt to prevent the situation from getting out of control onto the working and middle classes--in other words onto all except the monopolies and their lackeys."

Such is the true background of the arms race and the military budget in the United States.

The Soviet Union, together with the other socialist states, has proposed an effective and profoundly substantiated program for reducing the arms race. [paragraph continues]

III. 26 Jan 79

B 4

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES

This program is spelled out in the "Declaration of Warsaw Pact Member States" and other documents. Answering questions from the U.S. magazine, TIME, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said: "We are not trying to achieve military superiority over the West, we do not need it. We only need reliable security. There is no doubt that the security of both sides will be greater if we curb the arms race, reduce military preparations and improve the political climate in international communication."

COMMENTATOR URGES CAUTION IN NORMALIZATION OF U.S.-PRC TIES

LD260000 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Text] It is reported from Washington that the final preparations are being completed in the U.S. capital for the visit, beginning on 29 January, of Deng Xiaoping [Teng Hsiao-ping], deputy prime minister of the PRC State Council. Here is a "latest news" commentary by Aleksandr Druzhinin, political observer of Soviet radio and television:

The propaganda fuss raised over this visit on both sides of the Pacific gives no little food for thought as to the nature of the new Sino-American relations. Indeed, what aims are Washington and Beijing [Peking] pursuing now that they have sharply altered course after three decades of mutual nonrecognition? Regarding U.S. intentions, the answer is suggested by the mood of those influential political circles which have long regarded China as an important trump card in U.S. global politics. Representatives of those circles make no excuses for the fact that they see in the anti-Soviet utterances of the Chinese leadership a force which they would like to use against the socialist countries. Some people in Washington are openly dreaming of the military-political benefits which, according to them, the rapprochement with China may bring for the United States. Was it not of this that Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser, was speaking at his latest press conference when he extolled the advantages which the United States will gain in Asia and the Far East because of the normalization of relations with Beijing? Beijing, in turn, clearly sees the rapprochement with Washington a chance to more easily secure its hegemonistic interests and spread its influence in Asia, Africa and other parts of the world.

The Chinese leadership would like to use this alliance to try to drive a wedge in USSR-U.S. relations, and thereby strike a blow at international detente and hold up the process of disarmament. Beijing makes no secret of the fact that it sees the United States and the other Western countries as a potential source from which to replenish its arsenals with the latest weapons. But how will those weapons be used by a country which proclaims that war is not only inevitable, but desirable? Will it not turn them against those who are now flirting with the Beijing leadership? This is something which (?some of) the politicians in Washington would do well to consider. It is not infrequently said in Washington that the United States will not waive the interests of detente and peace for the sake of normal relations with China. Well, time will tell how far these claims will tally with the concrete actions of the American politicians.

TASS CITES CONGRESSMAN DELLUMS ON U.S. ARMS EXPENDITURES

LD251736 Moscow TASS in English 1705 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

["Sound Pronouncements"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, January 25, TASS--The Soviet Union does not want war and all the talk about the so-called "Soviet menace" is pure invention, said member of the House Armed Services Committee Robert Dellums.

Speaking in California University in Berkeley he said that the United States continues increasing its military potential using as a pretext the myth about military "superiority" of the USSR. He said he is convinced that speeding up development of new systems of armaments, the Pentagon prepares for a possibility of dealing the "first strike" at socialist countries. But it is not taken into consideration that it is insanity to plan a nuclear war in which there will be neither winners nor losers and in which the very existence of mankind will be jeopardized. Unfortunately, certain circles in the United States have no wish to understand this and continue inflating the Pentagon's budget which reached astronomical proportions as it is. And all this happens while allocations for the most important social and economic programmes are being constantly cut.

Criticising the dangerous arms race, the congressman said that it was initiated by the United States which steps up from year to year the rates of development and deployment of new types of armaments. It must be admitted that the United States foreign policy is formed under the influence of the military politics, he said. This can be seen from the course at increasing the potential of the U.S. troops in Western Europe. The American taxpayers have to provide about 55 billion dollars a year for military "requirements" of the NATO bloc. All this cannot but cause concern of Americans who have to shoulder the heavy burden of military expenditures, inflation and growing costs of living.

U.S. ECONOMIC ADVISERS' REPORT PREDICTS 'GLOOMIER' ECONOMY

LD251738 Moscow TASS in English 1716 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Washington, January 25, TASS--The U.S. balance of payments deficit in 1978 increased by 1.7 billion dollars to reach 17 billion dollars, says the annual report issued today by the Council of Economic Advisers to the office of the U.S. President. The report enclosed with the economic message of President James Carter also contains forecasts as regards prospects for the country's economy for 1979. In the opinion of the economists--authors of the report--the United States is in for a further deepening of the economic recession, a further growth of unemployment and continuing sky-rocketing of prices. The report points out in particular that the economic growth rates, which reached four per cent in the past year, will decline down to 2.25 per cent this year. The economists predict that the number of unemployed this year will increase to reach at least 6.25 per cent of the country's gainfully employed population. Only in case of success of the anti-inflationary programme of the administration, as the report stresses, the inflation rates will reach less than 7.5 per cent. It also follows from the report that in case of a failure of the anti-inflationary programme, the country's economic prospects will be by far gloomier.

PRC TRYING TO 'MINIMIZE LOSSES' AFTER BACKING POL POT

LD251456 Moscow TASS in English 1442 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

["China's New Manoeuvres"--TASS headline]

[Text] Singapore, January 25, TASS--The fall of the pro-Chinese regime in Kampuchea called forth acute polemics in the leadership of the PRC. According to the information circulated among Chinese emigrants here Deng Xiaoping [Teng Hsiao-ping] sharply criticized the apparatus of the CPC Central Committee and the Foreign Ministry of China, as well as the security service for actually misinforming the leadership about the degree of vulnerability of the positions of the group of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary and preventing the working out in time an emergency line of actions.

The fact that China now has to bear the losses for supporting Pol Pot in view of the extremely negative attitude to that figure in the majority of other countries is regarded as a very unfavourable one. The attempts to minimise these losses, to bring Sihanouk to the foreground have not proved effective and the Beijing [Peking] leadership is wary of continuing to link its plans concerning Kampuchea with Sihanouk.

No definite decision has yet been taken concerning concrete persons at whom the Chinese policy in Kampuchea will be oriented. It was deemed expedient to conduct propaganda from the positions of "defending independence of democratic Kampuchea" and at the same time to take measures to organize scattered remnants of the previous regime into a resistance movement. It is held in Beijing that there is a basis for a prolonged warfare of "guerrilla type" against the new authorities in view of the complex national and tribal relations in that area of Indochina and in view of the desperate situation of "Red Khmers" who were directly implicated in wholesale reprisals against the population.

It is talked in the local circles of emigrants about Deng Xiaoping's personal hostile attitude to Pol Pot, who publicly insulted Deng Xiaoping when he was in disfavour. Deng Xiaoping will, possibly, try to dissociate himself from Pol Pot, specifically, when he will make a visit to the United States, thus indicating that he is prepared to cooperate with the United States in opposition to the development of new Kampuchea. As one of the officials who is close to Deng Xiaoping put it, China would prefer preservation of the United States military presence in Indochina for a couple of decades to what is happening there now.

PRC ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN KASHMIR DENOUNCED

LD251858 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1500 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Viktor (Sevyakov) commentary]

[Excerpts] It has long become a practice for Beijing [Peking] representatives to take advantage of government visits to make inciting statements and the visit of China's vice premier Li Xiannian [Li Hsien-nien] to Pakistan was no exception in that respect. Speaking at a farewell reception he touched on the problem of Kashmir. He even found it proper to speak out against foreign interference in the region and of course it would be very interesting to know what sort of interference he had in mind and what has China to do with Kashmir in general.

The problem of Kashmir concerns India and Pakistan and can be settled only by the interested sides.

So how does China come into it and especially its claim to play the role of a supreme arbiter in the matter? The statement of the Chinese vice premier was in sharp contrast with the changes that are now taking place in South Asia, including relations between Pakistan and India.

Speaking at a banquet in honor of the Chinese vice premier President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan said his country continued to work for normalizing relations with neighboring India. We want friendship and peace with all countries, said the president, and attribute special importance to developing relations with the neighboring countries. It is noteworthy that Li Xiannian made his statement on Kashmir not long before the visit to the United States of China's Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping [Teng Hsiao-ping]. Diplomatic relations between the United States and China were established on the basis of the Shanghai Communiqué signed by Zhou Enlai [Chou En-lai] and Richard Nixon in 1972. In that communiqué both sides claim to participating in settling the problem of Kashmir. The question therefore is obvious: Aren't closer Chinese-American relations built up at the expense of the countries of South Asia? Anyhow the statement of Li Xiannian showed the desire of China to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and even secure the support of the United States in that improper undertaking.

MOSCOW MARKS 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF KMT PARTY CONGRESS

OW261004 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1030 GMT 25 Jan 79 OW

[Talk by state observer: "The Origin of Friendship"]

[Excerpts] Some 55 years ago in January 1924, the Kuomintang [KMT] held its first party congress under Sun Yat-sen's leadership. This station's observer notes:

The congress decided to organize a united front. This decision was of great significance in turning the KMT into a political party, an alliance of all classes that opposed imperialist rule over China. Communist Party members Li Dazhao [Li Ta-chao], Qu Qiubai [Chu Chiu-pai], Lin Boqu [Lin Po-chu] and Tan Pingshan [Tan Ping-shan] took part in preparatory work for the congress and attended it.

The congress manifesto defined the political program of the united front and included a new concept of Sun Yat-sen's three principles of the people. These principles were progressive and played a role in mobilizing people. The main points of these principles were opposition to imperialism and feudalism. The most urgent tasks put forward at the congress were the abolition of unequal treaties signed with foreign countries, the signing of new treaties or agreements with these countries on an equal footing and on the basis of respect for sovereignty, the restoration of democracy and freedom, adjusting farm management and developing trade union work. During the first KMT congress the sad news of Lenin's death reached China. Sun Yat-sen delivered a speech to commemorate Lenin, expressing the sad feelings of all Chinese progressive forces. He stressed the Russian revolution's significance for China.

The CCP members and internationalists resolutely supported Sun Yat-sen's policies of allying and remaining friendly with the Soviet Union. By relying on Soviet aid and support, the CCP members led the Chinese people in winning victory in the people's revolution and founded the PRC in October 1949.

They regarded the policy of allying with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries as the basis for the PRC's foreign policy. This policy was confirmed in the common program of the CCP National Committee adopted on 29 September 1949, in the Constitution adopted in 1954 and in the resolutions of the Eighth National CCP Congress in 1956. One of the basis points in China's foreign policy decided on at the Eighth National CCP Congress was to continue consolidating and strengthening the unbreakable fraternity and friendship with the great Soviet Union and all other people's democracies. China's fraternity with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries insured its smooth and rapid progress along the road of socialist construction in the 1950's; it also insured China's existence and protected it from the threat of imperialism.

In the early 1960's, Mao Zedung [Mao Tse-tung] and his followers betrayed proletarian internationalism and imposed their anti-Soviet policy on the party. The present Beijing [Peking] leaders have totally inherited this policy. In order to oppose the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, they actively collude with the world's most frantic reactionaries, warlords in Western countries, enemies of detente, racists in South Africa and the Chilean fascist rulers. They even try to throw together a so-called broad international front to oppose the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. At the same time, they take the road of allying with U.S. imperialism without regard to principle.

The Chinese leaders' betrayal of the principle of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries has greatly hurt the interests of the Chinese people and China's interests in developing along the socialist road. Answering the U.S. weekly TIME's questions on USSR-China relations, Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, stated: We have no territorial or other claims on this country. Nor do we think there is any objective obstacle between us that obstructs the restoration of not only good but friendly relations, provided, of course, that China takes a reasonable and peace-loving stand.

GROMYKO VISITS POPE AT VATICAN ON 24 JANUARY

LD241805 Moscow TASS in English 1547 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Rome, January 24, TASS--Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, foreign minister of the USSR, now in Italy on an official visit, visited the Vatican today and had a meeting with Pope John Paul the Second.

They exchanged opinions on the questions of deepening the relaxation of international tension and strengthening peace.

Meets With Italian CP Leaders

LD251952 Moscow TASS in English 1917 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Rome, January 25, TASS--Politbureau member of the CPSU CC, USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko had a talk with members of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party--General Secretary of the ICP Enrico Berlinguer, members of the leadership Gerardo Chiaromonte and Paolo Bufalini. During the talk, which passed in a warm, comradely atmosphere, they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest to the fraternal parties, including problems of the struggle for peace and disarmament, for strengthening security and expanding cooperation on the European Continent.

Taking part in the talk was member of the Central Auditing Commission of the CPSU CC, USSR Ambassador in Italy Nikita Ryzhov.

Gromyko Leaves Rome

LD261046 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, who was in Rome on an official visit, left for home today. At Rome airport he was seen off by Italian Foreign Minister Forlani and other officials. Among the party seeing him off was Ryzhov, USSR ambassador in Italy.

BRITISH PRESS DISTORTS BREZHNEV WARNING ON ARMS SALES TO PRC

LD252250 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Anatoliy Gan commentary]

[Text] I would like to draw your attention to a document published by the Soviet press today, Gan writes, a document that has a direct bearing upon Britain. The more so since as far as I can judge from BBC broadcasts, the document is actually being hushed up by the British mass media.

The document, a statement from the official Soviet news agency TASS, concerns the discussion in the British media of arms supplies to China from the NATO countries.

In this context, the TASS document reports the contents of James Callaghan's message of reply on the subject to Leonid Brezhnev. It is pointed out that the British media in their reports have been quoting some points from Leonid Brezhnev's message arbitrarily and out of context, thereby distorting them.

In that message to James Callaghan concerning plans for the sale of arms to China by certain Western countries, it is stated for one thing that Britain naturally decides for herself with whom and how she does business. But, when it is a question of military transactions this is bound to affect the interests of other countries, and especially countries neighboring on that which is so zealously being armed. This indisputable point made by the Soviet head of state shows how false are the claims of British policy-makers that the sale of British Harriers to China is merely an innocent deal in the general context of Britain's desire to develop balanced political, commercial, scientific and cultural relations with China. These claims become all the flimsier in the light of the transparent hints in the British press that the Harriers are to be deployed on the Sino-Soviet border. These hints also show how utterly unfounded is the British claim that the deal with Beijing [Peking] did not affect international security.

In his message to James Callaghan, Leonid Brezhnev made the point that arms supplies cannot be assessed without taking into account the purpose for which the arms are being acquired. Beijing's purposes are well known, and it makes no secret of them. They are to torpedo the relaxation of tension, to disrupt disarmament efforts, and to push the world in the direction of another war. To contribute to militarizing China, as Britain is now doing so vigorously, therefore means making the solution of international problems more difficult, undermining the foundations of trust between states built-up in the process of relaxation, opening up a new avenue for the arms race, and placing additional obstacles in the way of peaceful relations between states.

This naturally applies to the further development of Soviet-British relations too. It is very hard to reconcile Dr Owen's statement in the House of Commons last Wednesday, when he referred to the Soviet Union as Britain's potential adversary, with the Soviet-British document that Dr Owen signed with the Soviet foreign minister, Andrey Gromyko, in Moscow in October 1977. In that document it is stated that in examining international problems, both parties had agreed that detente is the only basis for maintaining and strengthening peace, and promoting peaceful cooperation between states regardless of their political, economic or social systems.

These are certainly not the aims pursued by Britain as she becomes more and more involved in the dangerous process of militarizing China which has openly declared herself to be an implacable enemy of the relaxation of tension, a relaxation which hampers China's efforts to edge the world towards another war.

It's simply unbelievable how quickly the British politicians of today have forgotten the lessons of Munich, where their predecessors tried to turn Hitler's Germany into an anti-Soviet counterweight. And it is even harder to grasp how in the present situation deliberate efforts can be made to militarize China with all the consequences that follow from that. Such a development, Leonid Brezhnev warned James Callaghan in his message, is not in the interests of any nation and this applies not only to present, but to future generations as well.

SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUE TO COMMENT ON SITUATION IN IRAN

West 'Counting Its Losses'

LD251443 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jan 79 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[S. Kondrashov article: "The West Is Counting Its Losses"]

[Text] Having driven out the shah, the Iranians are toppling his statues and demanding in big marches the liquidation of the monarchy. But the West and, above all, Washington is counting its losses. The political rejection of the shah at the present stage of the struggle has revealed a long-standing paradox: The Iranian monarch was more necessary to his foreign guardians and patrons than to his own people. The inventory of losses compiled by Western politicians and the press is diverse and lengthy. In this list direct financial losses jostle with political and psychological damage. There are temporary and permanent losses, real losses and sensationalized ones. As was to be expected, first place is taken by discussions of the new threats to the West's military-strategic and economic interests, threats which of course are being linked with the Soviet Union and with the new opportunities for increasing "Soviet influence" and extending "Soviet expansion." Without claiming to provide an exhaustive answer, I would like to voice a few opinions on this subject.

Where do the Western capitals and, above all, Washington see the unfavorable "fallout" of the Iranian crisis? Let us begin then with the main item on the list of losses--the profitable contracts of U.S. and other corporations and military departments. The shah dreamed of turning Iran into a "mini-superpower" and of having no more and no less than the world's third most powerful army. Washington encouraged these dreams. Oil revenue--the main, fabulous income of the Iranian economy--was largely channeled into the arms race and rushed across the Atlantic in a seemingly unique clearing account: oil for aircraft, tanks, guns and military electronic equipment. It is well known that since the beginning of the seventies Iran--to the great joy of U.S. corporations--has placed orders worth \$20 billion in the United States, being virtually the largest foreign customer for U.S. weapons.

This is now one of the main accusations leveled against the shah by the opposition: National resources were squandered to the profit of the Americans, to the profit of the ruler's imperial ways and to the detriment of the Iranian people. Judging from opposition leaders' statements, in an Iran without the shah the U.S. manufacturers of death will be shown the door. The present premier, Bakhtiar, taking into account the people's dissatisfaction, also favors "the revision of all existing and future military contracts." Mentioning the blunders of specialists in the Department of Commerce, the Pentagon and the State Department, NEWSWEEK wrote: "If the shah is overthrown, U.S. firms' losses will amount to \$12.5 billion."

But the loss here is not only a matter of dollars, not merely a financial loss. The United States is not prepared to deliver an enormous quantity of the most sophisticated weapons and thousands of military advisers to just any country. Neither the military ties between the two countries nor the special nature of U.S.-Iranian relations were limited to the intensive arming of Iran. Two very important factors attract the United States to Iran like a magnet: its proximity to the Soviet Union and its position in the center of the world's most important oil extracting region, which is of paramount significance for the present and future economic life of Western Europe, Japan and the United States itself.

As for the first factor, the following is just one feature of it. In the crisis situation, when the shah's power had been shaken, the CIA and the Pentagon were immediately concerned with dismantling and withdrawing from Iran their top-secret equipment used to "bug" the Soviet Union. Perhaps the equipment is indeed secret but this small service by the shah to his transatlantic friends has long been no secret to anyone. He gave them the full opportunity to spy on a state neighboring on Iran and amicably disposed toward it, putting an electronic ear to its border. But that is far from all.

Washington's special relations with Tehran were formed because the shah's regime was convenient, obedient and, moreover, zealous, rendering Uncle Sam many services in the Near and Middle East. In this sense the shah's bankruptcy is a substantial loss for Washington although it cannot be reckoned in specific dollar terms. The WALL STREET JOURNAL put it rather graphically: "Even if the shah's enemies succeed in forming a stable government which receives U.S. support, it is hard to imagine that Iran will continue to be an 'errand boy' carrying out U.S. assignments in the foreign policy sphere."

It is worth recalling some of the assignments carried out by the "errand boy." For instance, in the Arab-Israeli conflict Iran sided with Israel and, by supplying it with oil, insured the undermining of the Arab economic boycott. The shah supported the idea of a separate Egyptian-Israeli deal. This explains why he flew from Tehran to Aswan where the monarch, rejected by his people, was received in an ostentatiously friendly manner by As-Sadat. Now, incidentally, Bakhtiar and the opposition, which does not recognize his government, are agreed on one thing--the question of oil deliveries to Israel (and to the Republic of South Africa) must be revised. This agreement attests to the will of the people which was formerly suppressed by "the will of the monarch." Incidentally, Washington is now also thinking about alternative energy supplies for Israel since the United States has made relevant commitments on this score and also about whether the Iranian crisis will create new obstacles on the path toward an Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

But perhaps Washington's main strategic assignment has been the role of "gendarme of the Persian Gulf" which the Iranian monarch undertook proudly and vainly [samommeniem]. With its excessively large army, Iran under the shah replaced the British. Its tasks consisted in safeguarding the West's interests and keeping in power rulers convenient to the United States. But in contrast to the shah, the Iranian people do not want to rule as gendarme over other peoples. The Ayatollah Khomeyni, the recognized leader of the opposition, says: "Our principled position is that American-style 'security' was insured by the shah to the detriment of the Iranian people's interests." Feelings on this issue are so identical that even Prime Minister Bakhtiar, whom the American's support, says quite distinctly that Iran intends to discard its functions as "gendarme of the Persian Gulf."

And now, as it calculates the losses caused by the changes in Iran, Washington is more alarmed than ever about the threat to the "stability" of the Persian Gulf, about the "erosion of confidence" in Saudi Arabia and certain other Arab states with regard to the United States which has been unable to keep its Iranian ward in power, about the possibility of a "domino effect" and so forth. The most sensational question is formulated as follows: Who will now control the freedom of passage through the Strait of Hormuz and in whose interests? It will be recalled that the Strait of Hormuz links the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean. The oil extracted in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates passes through these straits in an unending stream of tankers. According to American Oil Institute calculations, in 1977 West Europe imported an average of 13.1 million barrels of oil per day, of which 7.1 million passed through the Strait of Hormuz. For Japan the figures were, respectively, 5.5 million barrels (1 barrel is 159 liters). The United States obtains 25 percent of its oil imports via this route.

In the context of these figures truly panicky, apocalyptic importance is attached to the question posed above: Will control suddenly pass into the "hands of Moscow"? The overheated imagination of Western journalists depicts a Red knife at the soft throat of the Western economy. Some politicians are playing up to the journalists. An example is Kissinger's recent interview with TIME magazine. He sounded the alarm about disruption of the "geopolitical equilibrium," attempting at the same time to blame the Soviet Union for the "disorders" in Iran. Not having the slightest evidence, he wriggled like a snake, making allegations such as: "There certainly existed objective reasons for the discontent, but the line between disorder and revolution has not been crossed without external influence." His successor, Brzezinski, talks of an "arc of instability" extending from Bangladesh to South Yemen.

The Near East oil is certainly of tremendous importance to the functioning of the Western economy. It is a vitally [pozarez] necessary element in the blood of the economic organism. Obviously, it is even possible to agree with America's CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, which believes that without this oil "all the countries of the industrial West would cross the fatal line between prosperity and economic collapse." But is it worth reducing the seriousness of the problem to boring banalities and to intimidating the Western man in the street once again with the "Soviet threat" which has suddenly been detected on the seething streets of Iranian cities and among the oilfields on the shores of the Persian Gulf?

First, only people interested not in the truth but in anti-Soviet fabrications and speculations can speak of the Soviet Union's involvement in Iranian events. They have no facts to corroborate their "stories." It should be noted that even American officials have repeatedly stated that they have no data testifying to Soviet interference in the Iranian events. American and not Soviet interference--that is an indisputable fact. There are millions of Iranian witnesses who are demanding an end to American dominance and to the policy oriented toward the United States. The Soviet Union advocates neighborly, friendly relations with Iran, not some form of "special" relations.

Second, there is obviously no reason for the West to fear for the supply [postupleniye] of oil from Iran or for tankers' freedom of passage through the Strait of Hormuz as soon as the West respects the Iranians' sovereign right to be masters in their own home. The opposition leaders, whose voice the world is heeding in the present peculiar period of dyarchy, have made repeated, unambiguous statements on this score. The strikes that have paralyzed the Iranian oilfields are an instrument of the domestic political struggle which has shown that ultimately Iran's people and not the shah's regime are the masters of Iranian oil and that this wealth must serve their interests.

Third, let us dwell on the very concept of stability that has been rejected by the course of Iranian events and which is now being lamented. Of what does this concept implemented in Washington's diplomatic practice consist? American-style stability was based on strong, indissoluble ties with the shah's regime. However, as certain official Americans who have been enlightened by events now admit, "there is only one constant factor in Iran--hatred of the shah." It was the stability of sitting on a volcano until the fiery lava bubbling in its depth erupted. It may be more comfortable to sit on a volcano than on a bayonet but it is no less dangerous, for a volcano cannot be "controlled" forever. And there is no reason to blame other people just because this stability proved unstable, especially as this is not the first such instance that we have seen.

Postwar history is full of instances where Americans miscalculated in backing rightwing, conservative regimes against patriotic, national liberation movements. You only have to recall Vietnam. But every time, refusing to learn from their mistakes, they have sought and--they think--found exceptions to the rule: a reactionary regime, semidictatorship or total dictatorship with the appearance of durability and indestructibility. Twenty-five years after Mosaddeq, the shah of Iran was such an exception for them.

So just what is the basis of the mutual attraction between the mighty 20th-century bourgeois republic and regimes smacking of the Middle Ages? "Attraction, a kind of ailment," as the poet would say? Yes, a kind of ailment but perfectly explicable--not by American imperialism's mistakes but by its very nature. They are brought together by anticommunism and anti-Sovietism. It is a mutual attraction based on a common fear. But the reactionary regimes that are attractive to Washington have an underside which is usually disregarded in the heat of geopolitical calculations. It is yesterday's anti-popular regimes that are the targets of today's covert hatred and tomorrow's desperate assault. However, much you delay it, tomorrow inevitably comes. In Iran it is today when the people are celebrating having sent the shah packing while the political bookkeepers in the West are adding to their column of losses.

Bakhtiar Seeking 'Common Language'

ID251603 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 79 p 5 ID

[Correspondent A. Filippov report under general heading: "Iran: Tense Situation"]

[Text] Tehran, 21 January--Today two members of the Regency Council -- a former minister and former Supreme Court chairman -- resigned. The reckoning of those who supposed that the shah's departure would help to smash the wave of the people's displeasure has not been justified. Mass antigovernment demonstrations are continuing everywhere, as are strikes of a political nature.

The demonstrations in Tehran and 25 other cities in the past few days, in which approximately 10 million people participated, demonstrated the strength and the degree of organization of the opposition and its determination to see the struggle through to victory. Relying on the organs of self-rule which have emerged spontaneously in the country, the various councils of employees in state and private institutions and factory and strike committees, an article published in the newspaper KAYHAN states, the opposition movement is a force which must now be reckoned with. Aware of this, the Bakhtiar government is trying to find a common language with the opposition and to win over to its side individual opposition representatives, promising them high posts. A situation has now taken shape in Iran whereby it is not the government but the opposition that is resolving questions of the renaming of streets, the shipment of freight by railroad workers and the extraction and refining of oil. The TEHRAN JOURNAL calls this situation "close to a dyarchy."

All this is accompanied by growing anti-U.S. sentiments. Not a single meeting is being held without sharp condemnation of U.S. policy toward Iran. A considerable share of the blame for the tyranny of the SAVAK political police is ascribed to the CIA. Until very recently, U.S. advisers guided the activity of this organization. Even responsible employees of many ministries and parliamentarians are demanding the severing of military-economic agreements with the United States. As a statement by the central strike council of state and private institution employees notes, subordination to the United States is preventing Iran from pursuing an independent foreign policy.

"Yankees get out of Iran!" "No to U.S. interference!"--these words are inscribed in large letters on the U.S. Embassy wall. Using these slogans, the Iranians are going out on antigovernment demonstrations. As this dispatch was being sent, the latest demonstration was being held outside the embassy to the slogan "Hands off Iran!"

Objectives of Struggle

LD251639 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Jan 79 p 4 LD

[P. Demchenko article: "When the People Rise Up"]

[Text] Mass demonstrations by the people covering virtually the entire country are continuing in Iran. The general strike has paralyzed the country and ended oil exports. The Iranian people's struggle has not slackened with the shah's departure abroad but has even assumed special political acuteness.

Certain Western politicians and journalists are inclined to attribute the mass demonstrations in Iran merely to the clash of interests between religious groupings with great influence and the ruling secular elite. This assessment is designed to conceal the profound sociopolitical causes and sources of the present crisis of the Iranian regime. Many facts have now accumulated which show that the authorities which chained Iran to imperialism's military-political chariot long ignored the solution of vital socio-economic problems and this ultimately provoked the people's anger.

There was nothing unexpected about the fact that religious figures have found themselves heading the struggle against the regime. A specific feature of Iran is that a large proportion of its population is linked with the traditions of Shi'ism whose slogans are of an objectively progressive nature in the situation that has taken shape. They call upon the people to struggle against the monarchy and foreign domination and for the satisfaction of the broad popular masses' social demands. In his time V.I. Lenin pointed out that people's movements in the East frequently assume distinctive forms.

It is possible to form a judgment about the true situation in which the Iranian people have found themselves from the numerous pieces of evidence that have now appeared in both the Tehran and Western press. Quite recently there was no shortage of articles about the economic boom in Iran, and even about the Iranian "economic miracle." But the other side of the coin has now been revealed. Scandalous facts have been published showing what price the country has had to pay for the ambitious plans "for the modernization of the economy and the army" in cooperation with the West. It has become clear that the regime's political structure and orientation proved incapable of boosting the economy.

A country which possesses vast natural resources and which from oil exports alone receives more than \$20 million annually runs a budget with a colossal deficit. Last year the deficit exceeded \$5.5 billion. Agriculture has ended up in a grave situation. Iran, which in the past used to satisfy its own food requirements almost completely, has suddenly found itself forced to import more than 60 percent of the produce that it consumes.

The broad masses of the population grew poor and were brought to ruin, while the elite grew fabulously rich. Here is what a correspondent of the newspaper L'HUMANITE says on this score. "It is difficult to visualize the scale of the social inequality. To see this for yourself you only have to drive through Tehran from north to south. On the green hills in the upper part of the city, newly-built, chic villas compete with ancient castles. Luxurious American limousines drive along the broad avenues.... The other Iran has been forgotten. It huddles in the quarters of the lower city on which the desert is encroaching. It is there that the poor live. Unemployed people ready out of necessity to do any kind of work, and street peddlers. Those who have left the countryside because of the consequences of the agrarian pseudoreforms which the shah began in 1962 and which led to the impoverishment of the small peasantry vegetate here. Each year 200,000 people swell the population of the slums."

Here are a few more figures. As the newspaper TEHRAN JOURNAL wrote, inflation in the country has risen to over 30 percent per year. Rent for housing and payments for municipal services swallow as much as half the family budget of workers and employees. The standard of living of 54 percent of Iranian families is below the poverty line. Even a person from the shah's entourage admitted that one Iranian child in four dies before his first birthday and many are permanently undernourished.

Where then are the billions of petrodollars that the country receives being spent? Almost half of all the oil revenues are swallowed up on maintaining the army and on massive purchases of modern weapons and military equipment abroad. By the mid-seventies Iran's spending had reached \$10 billion per year and the country had become the biggest purchaser of U.S. weapons.

The Pentagon has actively encouraged these purchases because this has given it the opportunity to increase its number of advisers and instructors in the Iranian Army and to use Iranian territory for various intelligence and other secret missions. The number of U.S. personnel connected with military matters, according to certain information, has increased to 25,000 men in recent years. This hypertrophied boosting of arms deliveries to a country which is experiencing tremendous difficulties has caused warning voices to ring out both within Iran itself and in the United States. Thus, Senator E. Kennedy called Iran's unrestrained military modernization "a dangerous game in the Persian Gulf."

The dynamics of weapons purchases abroad continued to increase until the thunderclap of the people's anger rang out. A definite political meaning can clearly be seen in this, just as in the conclusion of many economic deals with capitalist firms. In fact, a union came about between the shah's regime and the military-industrial complex of the United States and a number of other countries.

The massive weapons purchases are a bottomless source of profit for Iran's ruling elite. "The generals, ministers and other officials at the court and in the government," America's TIME magazine writes, "regularly received 10 percent commission on arms deals." The general corruption, embezzlement of state property both at the top and also in other spheres of the state apparatus in general became a sort of "norm" of life. But that is not the only point.

Iranian nobility deposited vast sums in U.S. and Swiss banks, bought up shares in major enterprises such as, for example, the Krupp plants, and at the same time offered monopolies the opportunity to invest their capital profitably in Iran which, in essence, meant they could plunder the country's resources. Thus, 500 U.S. firms have "interests" in Iran, including plants and subsidiaries.

This exacerbation of the problems offends the national feelings of the 34 million Iranians, who realize clearly that resources belonging to the country are being impudently plundered both by its own aristocracy and also by foreign monopolies. The anger came to a head long ago and burst out into the open from time to time, but as a rule any dissension was brutally suppressed by punitive bodies and especially by the secret security service--SAVAK--the beloved creation of the shah's court. Here is an interesting figure: Over a 20-year period SAVAK's budget increased 1,066-fold! But it is hardly likely that the precise number of people who were ill-treated in torture chambers and subjected to physical ordeals and humiliation will ever be known. Information that has now appeared in Tehran shows that many tens of thousands of people have suffered.

The reactionary nature of the Iranian regime has been repeatedly manifested in the international arena too. Iranian troops were sent to Oman to put down the Dhofari people who had risen up in a struggle for freedom. Iran cooperated actively with the racists of the Republic of South Africa, covering nine-tenths of its oil needs. [paragraph continues]

Tehran also maintained close links with Israel, which received half its imported oil from Iran. Incidentally, the shah played no small role in organizing the separate talks between Tel Aviv and Cairo. Is it not therefore fortuitous that after leaving Tehran the shah made his first stop in Egypt, where he was cordially greeted by President A. as-Sadat.

Analyzing all these facts, it is easy to realize where the roots of the very acute crisis which has rocked Iran's political structures lie.

A distinguishing feature of the [opposition] movement is its truly nationwide [obshechenarodnyy] nature despite the lack of a single center. With the exception of monarchist circles, the army leadership and imperialist minions, the vast majority of the population--workers and other urban and rural working people, the national bourgeoisie, the intelligentsia, religious figures, young people and a considerable section of the state apparatus--is participating in the movement. The discontent in the Iranian Army is also intensifying.

Attention is attracted by the democratic and anti-imperialist nature of the demonstrations and by the fact that political demands have been brought to the fore. These are: the release of all political detainees, the guaranteeing of democratic freedoms, the disbandment of SAVAK, the shah's abdication, the removal of the monarchy and the proclamation of a republican system, liberation from foreign dependence, the creation of a government that will reflect the country's national interests and which will be able to insure its complete independence and territorial integrity and, finally, the punishment of those who plunder the nation's resources.

Iranians with different world-outlooks and religious and political orientations are everywhere advocating the renunciation of the country's one-sided, pro-American foreign policy, the dismantling of U.S. military bases, the ending of oil deliveries to Israel and the Republic of South Africa, the pursuit of a policy of nonalignment and support for the Arab peoples' just struggle against Zionist aggression. In this connection it is understandable why imperialism, and above all U.S. imperialism, is frightened by what is happening in Iran and is trying with the aid of military, diplomatic and other maneuvers to influence events in its own interests and is interfering in Iran's internal affairs.

It is perfectly clear that the Iranian people are fully determined to struggle for national independence, their rights and freedoms and genuine sovereignty and national dignity.

Attention is also attracted by the fact that in a number of Iranian cities demonstrators have carried slogans expressing their desire for better relations with our country. Both for Iran and for us friendly and equal Soviet-Iranian relations are very important. For decades the Soviet Union has striven to strengthen ties with its southern neighbor on an equal basis.

The fruitfulness of such ties is obvious. Here is just one example. In recent years Iran has been supplying the Soviet Union with gas which is a by-product of oil extraction and which in the past was simply flared off. And the Soviet Union has helped Iran build a number of installations important to its economy to count toward payment for the gas. These include the metallurgical combine at Esfahan, a machinebuilding plant at Arak and others. In terms of the level of trade exchange, Iran has recently occupied second or third place among the Soviet Union's partners from among the developing countries. However, the potential of our economic and trading ties is far from exhausted and there are good prospects for their further development.

The Soviet Union has always treated the Iranian people, their problems, difficulties and concerns, and their struggle for a better future with sympathy and kindness and has always striven to make the Soviet-Iranian border a border of permanent, genuine peace and neighborliness--and that is what it wants now. Of course, we cannot remain indifferent to any attempt by the United States or other states to pressure Iran and interfere in its internal affairs, especially at a time when the question of what path the country will take in the future and what changes are to occur are being decided. As Comrade L.I. Brezhnev observed with the utmost lucidity, the Soviet Union considers the events in Iran as purely its own internal affair, and it is the Iranian people alone who must solve the issues set before them by the course of historical development.

U.S. Opinions

LD261103 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 4 19 Jan 79 pp 10-11 LD

[Correspondent Yu. Gudkov dispatch: "Iran: Washington's Gambles"]

[Excerpts] New York, 16 January--In December, President Carter appointed George Ball, undersecretary of state in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, as leader of a group to study the situation in Iran and to elaborate practical recommendations. "In Ball's view, which is on the whole shared by the State Department," NEWSWEEK wrote, "the shah cannot end the disturbances by using armed force." And so attempts to preserve the status quo, the State Department believes, merely decrease the chances of preserving American influence in Iran when there is a change of government. And presidential aide Z. Brzezinski's group believes that the changes in Iran may have a "demoralizing" effect on other regimes supported by Washington and will cause doubts about the reliability of an alliance with the Americans. In Brzezinski's opinion, the success of the antimonarchical and anti-American movement in Iran will intensify the social disturbances throughout the Middle and Near East and consequently result in a further weakening of the U.S. position. It is not difficult to see that these arguments in no way differ from the arguments of the authors of the notorious "domino theory" which, as is well known, provided the "theoretical basis" for the armed intervention in Vietnam.

Nevertheless, as is evident from Secretary of State C. Vance's statement at his 11 January press conference, the U.S. administration supports the shah's decision to leave for a vacation. S. Bakhtiar's civilian government, which was formed only with difficulty, is being gambled on. This approach is evidently the result of the compromise reached by the "interagency special purpose group" hastily set up from representatives of the State Department, Pentagon, CIA, Treasury Department and other "interested" institutions. If the civilian government of the "liberal" Bakhtiar fails to handle the situation, the American press writes, it will be replaced by a rightwing, military dictatorship which, having secured Washington's private support, will not stand on ceremony with the opposition. And when the opposition has been ended, it is not ruled out that the shah will once again be "taken onboard."

In an attempt to cool down the hotheads who are calling for direct interference, certain newspapers are recalling the Vietnamese experience which is still fresh in Americans' memory. But commentator Joseph Harsch wants to dispel the misgivings. With the ardor of a warrior with boundless capabilities, he writes: "History testifies conclusively what naval might can be utilized for the purposes which we have in mind in the Middle East.... Sooner or later Congress must come round to the idea that Vietnam does not rule out forever the use of American military might to safeguard American interests overseas."

It is difficult to say whether this remark is more irresponsible than it is boastful, but the fact that these delirious "ideas" are coming to mind and are even being picked up by the press merely proves once again how dangerous it is to gamble on force and foreign interference in the hope of breaking a people's will.

Khomeyni Postpones Return

LD251835 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1445 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Ayatollah Khomeyni, leader of the Iranian political-religious opposition, has postponed for 2 days his return to Iran, previously scheduled for 26 January. A spokesman for Khomeyni reported at a Paris press conference that this decision had been taken because the Iranian authorities had closed all the country's civil airports until Sunday. The opposition spokesman described the authorities' action as a conspiracy by the illegal Bakhtiar government aimed at perpetuating oppression and foreign domination in Iran. He said that the military today burst into the building of the public committee for planning Khomeyni's welcome, arrested several people working there and seized and destroyed documents.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department has announced that in the next few days the United States will be supplying Iran with 200,000 barrels of fuel to aid the Bakhtiar government. The American fuel will be used by the Iranian Army.

Opposition to Return

LD251759 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] Ayatollah Khomeyni, the Iranian Islamic opposition leader who lives in France, has said he is determined to return home despite resistance by official sources. Iranian official sources announced yesterday that all Iranian airports have been closed. Tanks and armed forces have been stationed at Tehran airport, and the military refused permission to two aircraft to take off for Paris to transport Ayatollah Khomeyni. Ayatollah Khomeyni now plans to go to Iran on Air France. It is expected that between 10 and 12 million people will welcome Ayatollah Khomeyni. It is feared that royalists and police agents might resort to acts of terrorism. At the same time, a spokesman for Ayatollah Khomeyni has said in Paris that such measures cannot prevent the return of the opposition leader. Millions of Iranians are preparing themselves to welcome Ayatollah Khomeyni, and every day thousands of people come to the capital from various provinces to participate in the ceremonies and welcome arrangements.

Bazargan, a well-known opposition statesman, said at a press conference in Tehran that immediately after Ayatollah Khomeyni's return the members of an Islamic Revolutionary Council will be announced, that the council will form a provisional government and that the provisional government will be assigned to prepare for the election of a constituent assembly. The constituent assembly would draft a new constitution.

On the eve of Ayatollah Khomeyni's return to Iran the armed forces leadership, trying to intimidate the opposition, has once again engaged in a show of force at Lavizan camp near Tehran and staged a parade by units of the Imperial Guard, one of the elite and select units of the Iranian Army. The parade included heavy tanks and artillery. AP cites an Iranian official statesman, who warns that the army will allow no action against the present regime. This official statesman said in a threatening tone that should such action be attempted there would be a bloodbath. Zahedi, the former Iranian ambassador to Washington, who is one of the relatives and close associates of the shah, has also confirmed the possibility of a military coup if the Bakhtiar government falls.

An extraordinary session of the Majlis was held in Tehran yesterday. Two issues were on the agenda: first, the dissolution of the political police, SAVAK; and second, trying those government officials and businessmen charged with abuse of power, corruption and bribery. The press notes that the leadership of the forces opposing the regime unanimously regard the government's belated move as an effort to preserve the regime. All strata of Iranian society have risen for a battle against the regime. Public demonstrations have been held in front of the Majlis. Similar demonstrations were also held in front of the U.S. Embassy.

Bakhtiar Trying To Gain Time

LD252255 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program]

[Text] Now about events in Iran. It was announced today that Khomeyni, the leader of the religious opposition, has decided to postpone his return to his homeland until Sunday. His representative explained this decision as being due to technical difficulties which have arisen. As we have already reported, on Wednesday Tehran airport was occupied by tanks, and the military did not allow the aircraft which were to bring Khomeyni to take off.

However, at the same time it has become known that Bakhtiar, head of the present Iranian Government, appealed through his representative to Khomeyni to postpone his return for at least 3 weeks. Moreover, [words indistinct] Bakhtiar said that he would resign if his request was complied with.

Analyzing the actions of the present prime minister of Iran, observers express the opinion that in Iran now attempts are apparently being made to create a political bloc against Khomeyni and prevent him from heading a national movement for eliminating the monarchical system. Hiding behind concern allegedly for the security of the religious leader after his return to Iran, the present cabinet is simply trying to gain time in order to have at least some chance of staying in power. In particular, in his interview to Radio Monte Carlo Bakhtiar advocated holding elections to a so-called constitutional [konstitutsionnaya] assembly in the next 4 months. This assembly, according to his plans, would decide as to whether Iran should become a republic or a constitutional monarchy as advocated by the present cabinet.

Observers also draw attention to Bakhtiar's attempts to use Khomeyni's popularity in his own interests. In particular, he told journalists that his position and the position of Khomeyni are essentially the same and that there are allegedly no differences in principle between them. However, observers express fears that a delay in Khomeyni's return could be used by the supporters of the monarchy to organize terrorist actions against the opposition leaders.

Persistent rumors continue to circulate that the CIA is preparing a military coup in the country. Replying to these speculations, a Khomeyni representative said that a military coup would be the end for its organizers, the people would sweep them away. This accords with reality because, in spite of the organized farce of proshah demonstrations, the population of Iran continues to firmly support the demands of the opposition which envisage the total elimination of the old regime, the dispersal of Parliament and the Regency Council and the resignation of the Bakhtiar government, and also the creation of an Islamic republic free from foreign domination.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Shah's U.S. Visit 'Undesirable'

LD252258 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1915 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[TASS correspondent report from Iran]

[Excerpt] The shah of Iran, who is in Morocco, is trying to prolong as long as possible his stay in the Near East. He told journalists that at the present time he did not intend to go to the United States of America as was planned earlier. It has become known that the U.S. Government has told the shah that until the situation in Iran clarifies his arrival in the United States is undesirable. This position of Washington has aroused clear dissatisfaction in the shah's entourage.

Curfew Observance

LD252104 Moscow TASS in English 2048 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Paris, January 25, TASS--According to reports from Tehran, the Iranian Government ordered the army and the police to strictly supervise the observance of the curfew. The military governor of Tehran, as the FRANCE PRESSE news agency points out, stated in a published communique about the prohibition of any demonstrations which will not be permitted by the authorities. This measure by the authorities, as the news agency points out, is connected with reports on the forthcoming arrival of the opposition leader, Khomeyni, in Iran. Khomeyni is now in Paris.

Foreign Press Reports

LD251834 Moscow TASS in English 1739 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] New York, January 25, TASS--In spite of the postponement of his return, New York TIMES writes, Khomeyni is as earlier resolved to personally "lead his supporters to an ultimate victory in the long struggle for the overthrow of the monarchy and establishment of a republic." Characteristic for the present state of the Iranian crisis are stepped up intrigues by the pro-shah and pro-American circles. These circles, feeling that they cannot rely themselves entirely on the army, in which fermentation and stratification are growing, are trying to knock together a block of antinational forces to give a semblance of a really existing and influential internal factor. The formation of reactionary gangs of thugs is evidence of the fact that the forces leaning towards the United States proceed from the possibility of outbreak of a civil war in Iran.

Yazdi, one of Khomeyni's closest aides, was quoted by the UPI agency as saying that the Iranian generals are now deliberately whipping up the thesis of a "communist threat" in order to try to justify the military coup being prepared by them. If the coup takes place, he said, the United States will bear responsibility for it, as it is impossible even to imagine that the Iranian Army will bring itself to such a step without U.S. consent and support from the United States. Therefore, the Iranians will evaluate a military coup or the coming of the military to power in some other form as an action carried through by the United States. A military coup, Yazdi stressed, will further complicate the political situation in Iran and impede a settlement of the crisis.

London, January 25, TASS--The REUTER agency reports about the rebellion of the personnel of an airbase in Esfahan. After the servicemen declared their support for the demands of the opposition, army units loyal to the government surrounded the territory of the base. Seventy F-15 aircraft have been sent from Esfahan to other bases. As Iranian pilots refused to fly the planes, the airlift was done by foreign pilots.

The agency points out in another dispatch that Tehran University, which was recently reopened after a long break, has turned into a real "stronghold of the revolution". Political rallies and manifestations are incessantly continuing in that educational establishment, which is Iran's biggest. Students and lecturers taking part in the rallies demand abolition of the monarchy and displacement of the present government.

Kuwait, January 25, TASS--The newspaper AL-ANBA reports that before his departure from Tehran, the shah received guarantees from Bakhtiar and the army command, who assured him that they will prevent any attempts at changing the country's regime. The newspaper points out that behind all this is the United States, for which the shah is only a pawn in the dangerous political game in Iran directed at ensuring Washington's interests in the strategically important Persian Gulf area.

IRAQ'S HAMMADI DISCUSSES TIES WITH USSR, IRAN, U.S.

LD251451 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 79 p 4 LD

[Text] Beirut, 21 January, TASS--Iraqi Foreign Minister S. Hammadi has positively assessed the state and prospects of Iraqi-Soviet relations. In an interview with the weekly AN-ANHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD'DUWALI, he stressed that Iraq and the Soviet Union are linked by ties of friendship which are embodied in practice both in bilateral cooperation and in the two countries' joint positions on problems of mutual interest. The USSR, the minister noted, is a great state, the leader of the socialist community. Our relations with it are developing in an upward direction.

The minister stressed that Iraq, like other Arab countries, resolutely opposes the separate agreements signed by Egypt and Israel at Camp David. He pointed out that the policy of reliance on the United States chosen by President as-Sadat contradicts the Arab people's national interests. Touching on the situation in Iran, the foreign minister stated that Iraq builds its relations with this country on the basis of the principles of noninterference and mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In conclusion, he reported that Iraq does not intend to restore diplomatic relations with the United States since Washington adheres to an unjust and prejudiced course on issues linked with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

VISIT OF U.S. F-15'S TO SAUDI ARABIA ASSAILED

LD260004 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Those who say that advertising for commercial ends in the United States has reached a point of perfection are perhaps telling the truth. In fact, managers of big companies pay huge sums to advertising agencies. Any why not? Since these agencies are the only ones capable of persuading buyers that happiness and life are the appanage of those who wear brown suspenders, or smoke Kent cigarettes, or drink Ballantine whisky. However, advertising loses its purely commercial character when it deals with politics or, for instance, arms.

The Arab press has illustrated the very negative reaction that has come in the wake of the dispatch of U.S. F-15 jet fighter-bombers to Saudi Arabia, which they regard as an overt brandishment of weapons in order to inspire fear in the Arab countries and entrench U.S. positions in the Middle East. In this respect, official circles in Saudi Arabia have said that the arrival of the squadron of U.S. jets had, to a certain extent, an advertising character, because Riyadh wanted to buy planes of this type from the United States.

But it became known later that one of the U.S. planes flew to Sudan, and another to Morocco. Clearly, this was not for advertising reasons, as Washington does not want to sell this type of modern weaponry to either country. In other words, if the Pentagon, in this case, is advertising something, it cannot be a type of goods but only a political aim, and that from a position of strength.

True, every country is free to invite U.S. planes to its territory. But if we take into consideration the situation prevailing in the Arab world, and the fact that the Phantoms given by Washington to Israel are the ones now shelling Arab towns and villages, such visits then take on a special character. And it is for this reason that Spain forbade them from landing on Spanish territory, even for refuelling.

PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ISSUES POLITICAL STATEMENT

LD252256 Moscow TASS in English 1626 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Damascus, January 25, TASS--The Palestinians and all other Arab peoples emphatically reject the machinations of the forces of imperialism, Zionism and reaction as embodied in the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David agreements, says a political statement of the 14th session of the Palestine National Council, the supreme legislative body of the Arab Palestinian people, which has just ended in the Syrian capital.

The decisions of the National Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, the Baghdad conference of heads of state and government of Arab countries and also the Charter of Joint National Actions, signed by Syria and Iraq, furnished a firm foundation for intensifying the political isolation of the United States and the As-Sadat regime in the Arab world.

The adoption of the political and organizational programmes of Palestinian national unity at the session, which rallied all detachments of the Palestinian revolution around the Palestine Liberation Organization, the document says, has been the reply of the Palestinian people to an imperialist conspiracy, which aims at wiping out the achievements of the Arab national liberation movement.

The statement stresses the need of continuing the struggle against the Egyptian regime's separate deal with Tel Aviv and calls upon the Arab population on the Israeli-occupied territories to step up the protest movement against the occupation regime. The so-called plan of administrative autonomy, imposed by the Israeli leaders upon the Palestinian people, the document says, in fact, deprives them of their legitimate national rights.

The members of the Palestine National Council emphatically denounced the aggressive actions of Israel and its hangers-on from amidst the conservative forces in southern Lebanon and called for strengthening the fighting alliance with the Lebanese people and the national-progressive forces of the country.

The session participants, the statement says, express warm appreciation to the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries for their immutable and consistent support for the just struggle of the Arab people of Palestine.

TURKISH SENATOR PRAISES TIES WITH USSR

LD250901 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jan 79 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Useful Cooperation"]

[Text] Ankara, 17 January--Ziya Mulayim, chairman of the Senate Commission for Foreign Affairs, has made an analysis of the main directions of the government's foreign policy in the upper chamber of the Turkish parliament. Concerning relations between Turkey and the USSR, Z. Mulayim said that "the Turkish and Soviet Governments are developing economic and cultural cooperation guided by the fact that belonging to different social systems is no obstacle to their maintaining neighborly relations and proceeding on the basis of the principle of mutual respect and noninterference in each other's internal affairs." The senator described cooperation with the USSR and the other socialist community countries as a concrete manifestation of the policy of international detente which, he said, can only be welcomed since it is also in keeping with Turkey's national interests.

INCREASING SOVIET-TURKISH RELATIONS UPSET WEST

LD251945 Moscow in Turkish to Turkey 1400 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "Attempts To Use Ugly Methods To Achieve Provocation"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR attempts in a recent article to cast a shadow on the history of Turkish-Soviet relations and to demonstrate that the development of Soviet-Turkish relations is unlikely. The paper alleges that historical events constitute the basis of Turkish misgivings about its Soviet neighbor and that, consequently, a serious alliance with the Soviet Union is outside the realm of possibility.

It is futile to probe into the events which give rise to these nonsensical assertions, because such events have not existed in the past and do not exist now. Furthermore, there are quite a few instances to prove that the facts are exactly the opposite of what the American paper claims they are. Soviet-Turkish trade, which has been growing in volume annually, has now been placed on a long-term basis. Relations between our two neighboring countries are also strengthening in the cultural, scientific and sports fields. This has also led to political cooperation between Turkey and the Soviet Union. The signing of the political document on the principles of neighborly and friendly cooperation last summer between the Soviet Union and Turkey was proof of this.

One might ask the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: Could the relations of the two countries have developed so fruitfully, had there been misgivings?

Kemal Ataturk said that there were many who wanted to create a gap between our two countries. Many [word indistinct] in imperialist circles have followed such an ugly policy for decades. They are now trying to persuade Turkish social circles that Turkey is allegedly [word indistinct] about its Russian neighbor and to frighten the Turks with the nonexistent Soviet threat.

All these, dear listeners, are attested by Soviet-Turkish relations in various fields. But the Soviet Union's desire to deepen its neighborly relations and multilateral cooperation with Turkey does not please the imperialist circles. This is why imperialist circles, which try to present a reversed image of the essence of the history of Soviet-Turkish neighborly relations, are resorting to ugly methods.

LD252226 Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Armed Forces of Ethiopia have inflicted a serious defeat on the separatists in the north of the country, that is in Eritrea. But that hotbed of tension appeared 17 years ago and the fire still keeps burning, sometimes low, sometimes blazing. More about that from our commentator, Georgiy Tanov:

Today I'd like to touch upon only one of the many aspects of the Eritrean problem. The separatist Eritrean Liberation Front, at its first congress in 1971, adopted a declaration. That document named as the chief enemies of the Eritrean people the clique of Haile Selassie I and its allies in the face of the exploiting classes of Ethiopia and Eritrea and also American servicemen in Eritrea and international Zionism. There were many such statements but it was the Ethiopian revolution and not the separatists that dealt a mortal blow to the common enemy. Nevertheless, the separatist leadership did not establish closer links with the revolutionary democratic forces of the country. On the contrary, it allied itself with various internal counterrevolutionary forces in Eritrea, the royalists, the clearly pro-Western elements and the Maoists.

Actually, the entire political platform of the separatists boils down to secession from Ethiopia and secession by all means and under all circumstances. What the separatists have been doing in Eritrea has resulted in economic chaos and a complete standstill in the province. In conditions when the people of Ethiopia and their revolutionary activists wage a heroic struggle to protect and consolidate the revolutionary gains, the nature of Eritrean separatism has changed. The once objectively progressive, antifeudal and anti-royalist movement has become a narrow, nationalistic trend, involving only some of the top sections of the population. It has become a political card, readily played by external and internal counterrevolutionaries and the Maoist agents.

In the liberated regions of Eritrea, a big effort is now made to restore a peaceful life, the economy and people's trust. Despite its military superiority, the Government of Ethiopia continues to look for ways to solve the Eritrean problem peacefully and democratically. It wants to solve this problem in the interests of all the various peoples living in Ethiopia and in the Horn of Africa and also the interests of independent Africa. And it has no intention of pleasing the separatist reactionaries, with their bankrupt ambitions and their supporters.

WEEKLY REFUTES ARGUMENTS FOR ERITREAN SELF-DETERMINATION

ID251404 Moscow TASS in English 1230 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

["Eritrean Problem--Facts and Inventions"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 25, TASS--"In the present conditions separatism, as shown by experience, can yield nothing to the African peoples. It merely reverses the peoples to tribalism, national strife, while, at the same time, strengthening the positions of the neocolonialist, reactionary forces", says the weekly NEW TIMES [NOVOYE VREMYA]. "The Armed Forces of socialist Ethiopia have inflicted a serious defeat upon the separatists in Eritrea Province," the weekly notes. "But the seat of tension in that area, which continued on and off for the past seventeen years, has still not been extinguished."

The Eritrean problem is still being exploited by the enemies of the Ethiopian revolution in their struggle against the progressive forces of that country, to destabilize the situation in the area of the Red Sea and Africa as a whole.

"It would be futile to try to find a more or less comprehensive political programme advanced by the separatists. There is, in fact, no such programme in existence," the NEW TIMES continues. "Only one goal is proclaimed--separation from Ethiopia by any means whatsoever and under any circumstances. Absolutely groundless in the given case are the references of some separatist leaders to the Marxist-Leninist thesis on the right of nations to self-determination, up to and including separation. Firstly, scientific socialism stipulates the right of secession for already formed nations, and not for a conglomerate of nationalities and tribes. Secondly, and this, apparently, is the main point, self-determination is primarily, a class, social problem. The main question here is: For the sake of what, in the interests of what classes, social groups and political forces is self-determination, secession required?"

"The point at issue today is: either to split up a historically formed state and replace it by numerous 'emirates' and 'republics' depending on imperialist, or to strengthen this multinational state of socialist orientation.

"It is not difficult to guess that in the first case the territory of Ethiopia would become an arena for unlimited manoeuvres of the imperialist forces and reactionary oil tycoons of the Arab East. Ambiguous in this connection is the stand of some Arab states, which, for instance, regarded approvingly in its time the idea of internal autonomy for the south of Sudan, condemned the attempts of the Sudanese separatists to split that country, and now believe for some unknown reason, nevertheless, that secession of northern Ethiopia is perfectly normal".

ZAMBIAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS; 'STATE SECTOR'S' ROLE VIEWED

ID252124 Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The domestic scene in Zambia has been lately marked by such important events as presidential and general elections and the first session of the new parliament. These events took place against the background of some economic problems getting more acute and against an escalation in the acts of aggression committed by the illegal Salisbury regime. At the same time, international monopolies and imperialist forces stepped up their pressure on the republic. Since Zambia is dependent, to some extent, on the southern transport arteries and taking advantage of that as well as of a certain worsening in the country's economic situation, the imperialist forces tried to knock the Zambian link out of the single frontline chain. Not only matters of economic pressure but also some elements inside the country were used for the purpose. However, in their vast majority, the Zambians obviously displayed by voting for President Kaunda and other candidates of the United National Independence Party, their allegiance to the cause of liberation of southern Africa from the remaining pockets of colonialism and racism.

At the first session of the newly-elected parliament, the Zambian president strongly denounced the attempts to establish puppet regimes in Zimbabwe and Namibia and described those attempts as a dodging maneuver which only aggravates the tragedy of the southern African peoples.

Thus the Zambian leadership reaffirmed its unchanged policy of all-round support for the just struggle the patriots of Zimbabwe and Namibia are fighting. At the same time, it refused to support the Western initiatives. As for the problems of development in Zambia itself, both President Kaunda's statements and the parliamentary session reaffirmed on the whole the former policy of independent economic and political development. Emphasis has been put on the greater effectiveness of the control system and on improving the work of the government and party machinery. The Zambian leadership is now paying special attention to diversifying the economy in order to reduce its dependence on the output and exports of copper.

One task is to raise farm output to a level necessary to meet the nation's requirements in food and raw materials for industry. A special role is to be played in advancing a stable and independent economy by the state sector. The Zambian leadership pays close attention to promoting it.

MOSCOW RADIO COMMENTS ON FORTHCOMING RHODESIAN ELECTIONS

LD252116 Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In Rhodesia, preparations are going on for another farce, the elections to Parliament which are to take place in April. Here is what our commentator writes:

The head of the racists, Ian Smith and the three African collaborators, are making generous promises and each of them keeps praising the one-man one-vote principle. The organizers of the farce, however, keep silent about one circumstance which actually means nothing of that principle. [sentence as heard] The fact is that 28 out of the 100 deputies will represent 250,000 white people while the remaining 72 deputies the 6.75 million Africans. Besides, for 5 years the white people will keep more than a quarter of the ministerial posts in the government.

So, as the Italian magazine PANORAMA commented on the fuss raised in Rhodesia about the elections, the method is simple. Something has to be changed in the form so that everything remains the same in essence and, of course, Ian Smith counts on the support of the Western world. Among other things, Salisbury is relying on the support from the pro-Rhodesian lobby in the American Congress which lately has considerably strengthened its positions. The lobby is determined to have the United States recognize the future government and the racists can always be sure of the support of the West. There is nothing surprising about that. It was because of London's failure to act that the independence of Rhodesia was unilaterally proclaimed more than 13 years ago, and the Smith regime couldn't have existed for so many years if the leading Western countries hadn't been undermining economic sanctions taken against it. And last but not least, it is the common interests of the racists and their backers that today prompt them to prevent by all means a real African majority government running the country.

But even though the West has the warmest feelings for the leader of the racists, the government which he now tries to set up has practically no chances of surviving. The Italian magazine PANORAMA points out that the Smith plan is doomed. It will be dissolved by the guerrilla war which he himself provoked.

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'ALLEGED DIFFERENCES' BETWEEN U.S., UK ON RHODESIA EXAMINED

LD242034 Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Arkadiy Butlitskiy commentary]

[Text] The Western news media have been talking about some alleged differences in British and American policy towards Rhodesia. They hint at certain new answers in the approach to the ill-famed Anglo-American plan for Rhodesia. Our commentary was written by Arkadiy Butlitskiy:

It takes a vivid imagination indeed to single out any essential differences. The policy suggested in the United States and approved in Britain aims at setting up a moderate or collaborationist government of Africans in Rhodesia, that would not only suit Africa but would be closely connected with the West. The joint Anglo-American plan was chosen as the means to achieve this goal. But for the racists the plan, even restricted as it is, seemed too radical, despite the fact that it does not challenge their main positions. And for that reason the racists prefer the internal settlement which is a mere farce, of course.

But let's return to the so-called differences between Britain and the United States. Some Western observers say that in the given situation the United States may adhere to its plan with Britain in its initial form, if one is to judge by the statements of America's ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young. As for Britain, London says it is ready to consider the internal evolution [as heard] in Rhodesia to a greater degree. In other words, to proceed from the Smith deal called an internal settlement. But of course all this is very relative. Incidentally, when Prime Minister Callaghan and President Carter met in Guadeloupe they agreed to freeze the Anglo-American plan, which means that the Smith regime is free to act at will.

The United States and Britain, having the same interests in Rhodesia, harbor the same plans for keeping that country in their sphere of influence. At this moment they see their main goal as bulldozing suitable puppets to office in Rhodesia, sowing dissension in the ranks of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, setting the frontline African states against one another, and cutting them off from the national liberation movements in southern Africa.

SWAPO TO TAKE PART IN UN CONTROLLED NAMIBIAN ELECTIONS

LD261054 Moscow TASS in English 0823 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Lusaka, January 26, TASS--The South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) passed a decision to take part in the elections, which are to be held in Namibia this autumn under the control of the United Nations. This was announced in Gaborone, where a meeting of this organization is under way, by the SWAPO secretary for information and publications M. Tlahabanello. He stressed that SWAPO would achieve victory at free elections.

SWAPO, the only lawful representative of Namibia, denounced the election farce staged last December by the South African occupationists for the purpose of misleading world public opinion and perpetuating its domination behind the screen of a puppet regime.

'TOUGH' U.S. POSITION ON PAKISTAN'S DEBTS CONDEMNED

LD250011 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Aleksandr (Malik) commentary]

[Text] By the end of June Pakistan must pay the United States \$100 million on its debt, according to the Pakistan TIMES. The following comment is by Aleksandr (Malik). This is what he writes:

This year Pakistan is all set to pay \$135 million to a number of West European countries. The \$100 million it is to pay the United States are beyond Pakistan's financial capabilities. The tough position of the Carter administration has put Pakistan in a critical position. Now, strange as it may seem, it's the United States Washington POST that suggests a way out. The paper gives it to understand that the United States would hardly reconsider the deadline if Pakistan refuses to slash its extravagant spending abroad, and to rationalize its economic policy.

What is meant by extravagant spending is what Pakistan spends on wheat purchases abroad. And what the Washington POST calls the rationalization of the economic policy in fact implies halting construction work on what the newspaper calls--and I quote--the uneconomical Soviet smelting factory at Karachi.

I doubt very much whether Pakistan will agree to spend less on wheat purchases abroad. The MORNING NEWS, representing Pakistani business circles, has said the country must import approximately 1 million tons of wheat a year. If it imports less it will have a grave problem on the food front. Let me add that Pakistan is forced to buy wheat from the United States, paying a dollar a pound. In other words, the extravagance of Pakistan is rooted in America's stand. As for what the Washington POST has to say about the Soviet steel mill project under construction at Karachi, it's major national project.

The factory is being built jointly by Pakistan and the Soviet Union, to become the latter's property upon completion. When the president of Pakistan, General Ziaul Haq visited the project last summer, he said that when the giant steel mill is commissioned, he thinks the country will be able to supply itself with steel and will stop spending huge sums on imported steel. Why does the Washington POST distort the facts? The weekly VIEWPOINT says the United States expects blind loyalty in exchange for its credits. The VIEWPOINT maintains that the Pakistani leader must stand up to the pressure from Washington, Pakistan must depend more on its own potential and on cooperation with friendly countries.

IZVESTIYA CITED ON INDIAN-SOVIET, INDIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS

LD170050 Moscow TASS in English 1945 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

["India: Problems and Prospects"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 16, TASS--The foreign-policy line of the present Indian leadership directed at maintaining universal peace, consolidating the processes of detente, development of broad international cooperation has on the (?whole support) from all sections of Indian society and the country's political parties, IZVESTIYA correspondents write in the newspaper in their dispatch from Delhi.

In the field of Soviet-Indian relations, they point out, a signal event has been the initialling early in December last year of the programme for long-term, bilateral, economic and scientific-technical cooperation. Many Indian statesmen, political and public figures, have recently declared in favor of further broadening and deepening ties between the USSR and India in various fields. The fifth anniversary of Leonid Brezhnev's visit to that country was widely and enthusiastically marked in India in November last year.

At the same time, as Indian observers point out, the struggle of opinions on the question of prospects of Indian-Chinese relations is far from ending. Interest in this subject has again grown in connection with the reports about a visit to Beijing [Peking] by Indian Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee planned for February this year. As Indian newspapers point out, some Parliament members called in question the advisability of such a visit at a time when the struggle for power in China is continuing unabated, and when prospects of the impact of the American-Chinese rapprochement on the situation in Asia and in the area of the Indian Ocean still remain not clear. Questions pertaining to considerable buildup by China of its combat readiness in the areas directly bordering on India's territory as well as big arms supplies from the PRC to Pakistan and Nepal were again raised in the Indian Parliament a short time before. On his part, A.B. Vajpayee said that his plans to visit Beijing have (?remained) unchanged. But at the same time, he once again assured the parliamentarians that India's rapprochement with China will not be at the expense of its relations with third countries.

SIHANOUK CONDEMNS POL POT REGIME AFTER LEAVING 'CHINA'S EMBRACES'

LD261019 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jan 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[C. Anichkin rejoinder (replika): "Having Escaped From China's Embraces...."]

[Text] "At the very least it was a strange or enigmatic appearance that he made at the United Nations as the representative of a government which he never liked and which has ceased to exist," wrote the U.S. magazine, TIME, about Norodom Sihanouk's speech in the Security Council when the slanderous cause [klauza] of the Pol Pot regime overthrown by the Kampuchean people was discussed there recently.

Indeed, the magazine poses the question: How could Sihanouk speak on behalf of a regime which he considered odious? For the greater part of the 4-year rule of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime he was in fact under arrest. When the pro-Chinese regime fell, Sihanouk was quickly taken to Beijing [Peking] where he received instructions on how to act in the Security Council. In other words, he was a hostage and pawn in the unseemly game of the Beijing leaders who have on their conscience the tragedy of the Kampuchean people and millions of innocent victims. From U.S. press reports it can now be seen that the Beijing leaders gave Sihanouk the opportunity to go to the West on one condition--that he would speak on behalf of and in justification of the crimes of their henchmen in Phnom Penh. In any case, he openly told a New York TIMES correspondent: I have discharged my obligations and I should now like to behave as a "free man."

Having escaped China's embraces, Sihanouk, to use the words of TIME magazine, "is intoxicated with a sense of freedom." He may or may not be intoxicated with this feeling but in his conversations with journalists he has begun to relate what actually happened in Kampuchea in recent years although he was kept for a long time in seclusion and under guard. He recalled how he was subjected to humiliation and assaults. "I never approved of Pol Pot's policy and I was indignant at the way the people were treated. After all, we are not animals like oxen and buffaloes," he told a TIME magazine correspondent. Sihanouk has given an account of only a small part of the crimes of the pro-Beijing Phnom Penh regime.

Now, it is reported, Sihanouk is in one of New York's hospitals suffering from very high blood pressure and nervous exhaustion. This diagnosis comes as no surprise after his odyssey in Phnom Penh and Beijing.

The former monarch of Cambodia declared that he intends to remain in the West for an indefinite period and possibly to settle in the United States.

But has Sihanouk forgotten that in 1970 he was toppled from power by Lon Nol with Washington's active assistance?

CAMBODIAN LEADERS ADDRESS PHNOM PENH 'VICTORY' MEETING

LD261046 Moscow TASS in English 1020 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Phnom Penh, January 26, TASS--A mass meeting has been held in the Kampuchean capital to mark the victory of the revolutionary forces and the country's liberation from the dictatorship of the reactionary clique.

The new national anthem resounded over the stadium, packed by thousands of representatives from all the provinces of the country and men of the People's Revolutionary Army.

Addressing the meeting, Heng Samrin, chairman of the People's Revolutionary Council, noted the historic importance of the overthrow of the bloody dictatorship of Beijing's [Peking] henchmen. Kampuchea was drowned in a sea of blood during the years of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique's rule, he said. Millions of people were tortured to death and executed. The clique, which served the great-power interests of Beijing, practically ruined the national economy.

The chairman of the People's Revolutionary Council called for the revolutionary vigilance of the people. He mentioned as one of the primary tasks the early restoration of the national economy, normalization of the population's life. Successful construction of an independent, peaceful and democratic Kampuchea, advancing along the road to socialism, is guaranteed by the unity of all the sections of the country's population, Heng Samrin noted.

He expressed gratitude to the party and Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, all the Vietnamese people for the great support and concrete aid to the Kampuchean revolution in all spheres, granted in the spirit of proletarian internationalism. Heng Samrin stressed particularly the importance of strengthening solidarity with the fraternal socialist states and establishing good relations with the neighbouring nations.

The meeting was addressed also by Pen Sovan, vice-chairman of the People's Revolutionary Council, in charge of defence, and Chea Sim, in charge of internal affairs.

Pen Sovan expressed gratitude to men of the people's revolutionary forces of the United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea for their victorious struggle, which was crowned with the overthrow of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime.

The first issue of the newspaper "KAMPUCHEA", organ of the Central Committee of the United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea, has appeared in Phnom Penh. It is devoted to the holiday of the homeland's liberation, to the solidarity of the progressive peace-loving forces of the world with the righteous cause of the Kampuchean people.

'SIGNS OF REBIRTH' NOTED IN PHNOM PENH

LD251551 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 79 p 5 LD

[Special correspondent V. Skvortsov dispatch: "Beginning of Rebirth"]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 21 January--The Cambodian capital that was liberated 2 weeks ago resembles a desert crammed with empty apartment blocks and administrative buildings in an area of 50 square kilometers. Where over 600,000 people once lived there are now only 200-300 inhabitants. That is the result of 3 years of mass destruction and expulsion of the people of Phnom Penh, the result of the rule of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique.

The surviving Phnom Penh inhabitants tell how schools and former ministries and hotels were turned into prisons where thousands of prisoners were kept chained to rings cemented to the floor. All of them, including children and women, were killed the day before the revolutionary forces arrived.

Your correspondent was received by Khang Sarin, chairman of the Phnom Penh Military Administrative Committee and commander of the capital's military zone.

"Our main concern now," Khang Sarin said, "is to bring order to our motherland's capital as rapidly as possible. In 3 years the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique, relying on Beijing's [Peking] support, destroyed municipal services and brought economic and cultural chaos. [paragraph continues]

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It scattered the surviving inhabitants of Phnom Penh among dozens of concentration camps in the most remote regions of the country. People must now be helped to return to their homes. The main immediate task is to revive the capital and resurrect Phnom Penh.

Signs of this rebirth are already appearing. The city water supply has resumed operation. The piles of garbage have been cleared from Phnom Penh streets. From 1800 hours, the power station that was partially destroyed by the reactionaries is, after rapid repairs, providing power for the central districts. Historical monuments, ministry buildings and housing have been placed under reliable protection. Workers have returned to the rubber factory. Representatives of the new authorities have appeared in machine workshops and the fighters are surveying and repairing abandoned equipment at the cement, chemical, textile and other enterprises. Sufficient food has been brought into the city. Cambodia's capital awaits the mass return of its inhabitants. They are already traveling in large columns along the country's roads toward Phnom Penh.

USTINOV GREET'S LAO DEFENSE MINISTER ON ARMY JUBILEE

LD251039 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Jan 79 p 1 LD

[Text] To Comrade Khantai Siphandon, Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] minister of national defense and commander in chief of the Lao People's Liberation Army, Vientiane:

Esteemed comrade minister:

On behalf of the USSR Armed Forces and on my own account I send you and all soldiers of the Lao People's Liberation Army fraternal greetings and cordial congratulations on a glorious jubilee--the 30th anniversary of the Lao People's Liberation Army.

The Lao People's Liberation Army was created during the years of the grim struggle for its motherland's freedom and independence and against the forces of imperialism and internal reaction. It presently vigilantly guards the revolutionary gains of the Lao people, who under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party are successfully traveling the path of building socialism.

On this portentous day we send you, comrade minister, and all Lao soldiers our wishes for new successes in further strengthening your motherland's defense capability.

May the fraternal friendship between our countries' peoples and armies strengthen and prosper!

With communist greetings:

[Signed] Marshal of the Soviet Union D. Ustinov, USSR defense minister.

MOSCOW COMMENTS ON OHIRA, SONODA DIET SPEECHES

OW261124 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1400 GMT 25 Jan 79 OW

[Tsvetov report from Tokyo]

[Text] Both Prime Minister Ohira and Foreign Minister Sonoda stated that the alliance with the United States will remain the basic policy of Japan's diplomacy. They stressed that they would make their best efforts to further consolidate and develop the Japan-U.S. alliance. However, Prime Minister Ohira admitted that there are some differences between Japan and the United States. However, in his policy speech he only cited their economic disagreements. He did not touch on various difficult implications that will arise between Japan and the United States in the wake of the closer relations between Beijing [Peking] and Washington.

Prime Minister Ohira stated that Japan's security is based on the Japan-U.S. military alliance and Japan's own military power. Of course, the prime minister stated that this military power should be increased within certain limits. However, no one in Japan is presently working to set these limits.

Japan's military spending in fiscal year 1979--1980 has now been set at over 2 trillion yen. It should be noted that the defense agency actually asked for far greater amounts of the national budget.

Concerning Japan's relations with China, both Prime Minister Ohira and Foreign Minister Sonoda said that they would like to develop them for peace in Asia and the world. Japan-PRC relations will not contribute to peace in Asia if Japan moves at Beijing's beck and call. Beijing's attempt to instigate Japan to take a hegemonist action against the people in Indochina creates further doubts as to the contribution of Japan-PRC relations to peace in Asia.

It is quite regrettable to find that there is no difference between the diplomatic policies disclosed by Prime Minister Ohira and Foreign Minister Sonoda at the Diet session and those of the preceding administration.

The two ministers again linked the improvement of Japan-USSR relations to the so-called territorial issue. The Soviet Union has repeatedly pointed out to the Japanese Government that there is no territorial problem between the two countries. This unending territorial demand on the Soviet Union will only limit from the outset the possibility of developing and deepening Japan-USSR neighborly relations.

Of course, the Soviet Union will continue to have contacts at all levels with Japan as hoped for by Foreign Minister Sonoda. However, to stick to the so-called territorial issue will prevent the solution of a major issue--the conclusion of a peace treaty.

Attention must be paid to the fact that both Prime Minister Ohira and Foreign Minister Sonoda have not remarked on the draft treaty of neighborliness and cooperation proposed by the Soviet Union. This attitude may breed doubts about the remarks by Foreign Minister Sonoda that Japan is seeking mutual understanding and trust in its relations with the Soviet Union.

BREZHNEV GREETINGS TO PAVLODAR OIL REFINERY WORKERS

LD251113 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jan 79 p 1 LD

[Text] To the collectives of oil refinery workers, construction workers, installation workers, machinebuilders and all those who took part in the construction and development of the production capacities of the Pavlodar oil refinery:

Dear comrades:

The CPSU Central Committee welcomed with great satisfaction the report on the commissioning of the Pavlodar oil refinery and the ahead-of-schedule startup of its production capacities.

This was possible thanks to the precise organization of the construction process and startup and adjustment work as well as the selfless labor of workers, engineers and technicians under the leadership of the oblast and republic party organizations.

Constructed on a modern technical basis and equipped with Soviet-produced equipment and reliable means of automation, new refinery equipment and reliable means of automation, the new refinery is distinguished by high production efficiency and good quality petroleum products.

The refinery's rational combination of manufacturing processes into a single production complex and the use of highly productive equipment has made it possible to reduce unit capital investment and metal expenditure in erecting the plant by one-third. At the same time as the production capacities were constructed, important social tasks were comprehensively resolved here such as the creation of well-appointed housing and highly efficient nature conservation installations.

The commissioning of the new large-scale oil refinery is an important stage in the development of the Pavlodar-Ekibastuz territorial-production complex. It creates the necessary conditions for a reliable supply of petroleum products for the republic's virgin land farming, livestock-raising, industry and transport and insures a substantial reduction in railroad shipments of petroleum products.

I wholeheartedly congratulate you, dear comrades, on your remarkable labor victory. I express the firm conviction that the working people of Pavlodarskaya Oblast will mark the fourth year of the 5-year plan with new achievements for the sake of the Soviet people's happiness and prosperity and for the sake of the triumph of communism.

I wish you good health, happiness, well-being and creative successes in your labor.

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 20-23 JAN

LD260805 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 20 January reports that in Kazakhstan snow retention is being carried out on the 20 millionth hectare. The rate of work is twice as fast as last year. The farms of Saratovskaya Oblast have prepared the sowing and soil cultivation machinery ahead of schedule. Tractors are being repaired ahead of time along with grain combines and field machinery. Farmers on the frontranking farms in the oblast intend this year to gather 40 quintals of grain per hectare from irrigated land.

At 0100 GMT on 21 January the radio reports that in Uzbekistan, scientists have produced a soil map of the republic which shows land suitable for cotton farming. The land available for this amounts to about 12.5 million hectares. During this 5-year plan, the area of irrigated and drained land to be brought into agricultural use throughout the country will exceed 4.5 million hectares. During the 5-year plan the state plans to spend over R40 billion on opening up new lands throughout the country. At 0500 GMT the radio reports that Tadzhik land improvement workers have completed reconstruction of the great Fergana Canal, which will insure the stable irrigation of large cotton plantations in Leninabadskaya Oblast. Four sluices in the canal are automatically controlled and the pumping stations have been modernized. Some 660,000 hectares are irrigated in Tadzhikistan. All of the republic's 15 irrigation systems are now being made ready for the irrigation season.

At 1100 GMT the radio reports that in Orenburgskaya Oblast, which needs over 800,000 tons of seeds, over 90 percent is in top condition. In Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR half the crop area has been topdressed with mineral fertilizers. The area sown to winter crops has increased considerably this year due to reclaimed lands. Overhauling of equipment for spring has ended in Moldavia. A new method of heat treatment of seeds developed at Kharkov University will help cut the time needed to evolve high-yield hybrid strains of crops. The method is based on a study of the energy system of the cell. The Ukrainian Plant-Breeding, Selection and Genetics Research Institute has started using the new method to evolve corn hybrids. The high-yield Domodedovskiy potato has been adapted to Moskovskaya Oblast for the first time this year. On test plots, its yield was 300-310 quintals per hectare. Specialists give a high assessment of its food qualities.

At 0200 GMT on 22 January the radio reports that Kazakhstan farmers are preparing for sowing in 1979. Overhaul of machinery is in full swing in the republic. Almost 250,000 new tractors will be engaged in the fields in the spring; more than 180,000 have already been overhauled. Dzambul'skaya and Alma-Atinskaya oblasts have nearly completed the overhaul work. New machinery is being delivered; some 50,000 tractors and combines are to be delivered. Farms will receive many trucks and specialist motor vehicles, motor vehicle and tractor trailers and corrosion resistant sowing machines. Having sold more than 1 billion puds of bread to the state last year, Kazakhstan farmers have fully laid in the reserves of spring grain crop seeds. Most of the seeds have now been checked and are up to standard. More than 60 percent of them belong to classes one and two.

At 0530 GMT the radio reports that Kuban farms have fully completed preparing the seeds for spring sowing. All soil working tools, sowing machines and 54,000 tractors have been overhauled. Moldavian machine operators have also completed preparations for spring work. At 0700 GMT the radio reports that snow retention has been carried out on 1.5 million hectares in Omskaya Oblast to date, more than half the planned area. At 0700 GMT on 23 January the radio reports that the total area of improved land in the USSR is now almost 29 million hectares. In the past year along 760,000 hectares of irrigated land were handed over for use and 680,000 hectares were drained. Last year the state spent R7 billion on investment in land improvement schemes.

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TASS GIVES DETAILS OF METEOR SATELLITE LAUNCHING, FLIGHT

LD251719 Moscow TASS in English 1712 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

["'Meteor' Satellite in Flight"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 25, TASS--An artificial satellite of the earth, Meteor, was launched in the USSR today.

The main purpose of the satellite is to obtain information necessary for continuation of work to explore the earth's natural resources, to practice methods of remote-controlled measurements of the parameters of the underlying surface as well as to obtain meteorological information.

The satellite was put into an orbit with the following parameters: The maximum distance from the earth's surface (in apogee)--656 kilometers, the minimum distance from the earth's surface (in perigee)--628 km, orbital inclination--98 degrees, and initial orbital period--97.4 minutes.

The satellite carries: A scanning television apparatus to get the picture of the earth's surface in several areas of spectrum, an interferometer-spectrometer, worked out and made in the GDR for joint experiments in long-distance probing of the atmosphere within the framework of international cooperation under the Intercosmos programme.

Apart from scientific instrumentation, the satellite Meteor has: A system ensuring the satellite's permanent orientation towards the earth, a power supply system with autonomous orientation of solar batteries towards the sun, a correction system to maintain stability of orbit, a radio system for precision measurement of orbit elements, and a radio telemetry system to transmit data on the operation of instruments and scientific apparatus back to earth.

SOVIET EXPEDITION CONTINUES RESEARCH WORK IN ANTARCTICA

LD252316 Moscow TASS in English 1844 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Leningrad, January 25, TASS--The Ellsworth Ridge, one of the most hard of access and remote mountain systems in Antarctica, is now being studied by Soviet scientists. They made a flight over this area lying south of the Weddell Sea and charted it on maps.

This was reported today in a radiogram from the head of the seasonal team of the 24th Soviet Antarctic expedition, Yevgeniy Kamenev.

Air routes to the Ellsworth Ridge are on the program of the geological-geophysical study of a vast region linking the western and eastern sectors of the Antarctica. Relying on the season base Druzhnaya, geologists and geophysicists set up seven research camps at the foothill of the intercontinental ridges Pensacola and Shackleton. From these camps they travelled in light snow-mobiles to get mineralogical collections and to make detailed geological surveying. A vast complex of topographical, geodetical and glaciological works is simultaneously being implemented.

Despite the complex weather conditions of the present Antarctic summer, the scientists plan to survey before the end of February a territory of several hundred thousand square kilometres.